

Order of Worship  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**

March 29, 2026



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
745 S. Ingraham Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
863-686-5585

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz, Pastor  
Email: [pastor@gracelakeland.com](mailto:pastor@gracelakeland.com)  
[www.gracelakeland.com](http://www.gracelakeland.com)

## + GATHERING +

**INTRODUCTION** 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.

\*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DIALOGUE

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

### PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

**Matthew 21:1-11**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(after the reading)*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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. 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 in the highest!**

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*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,

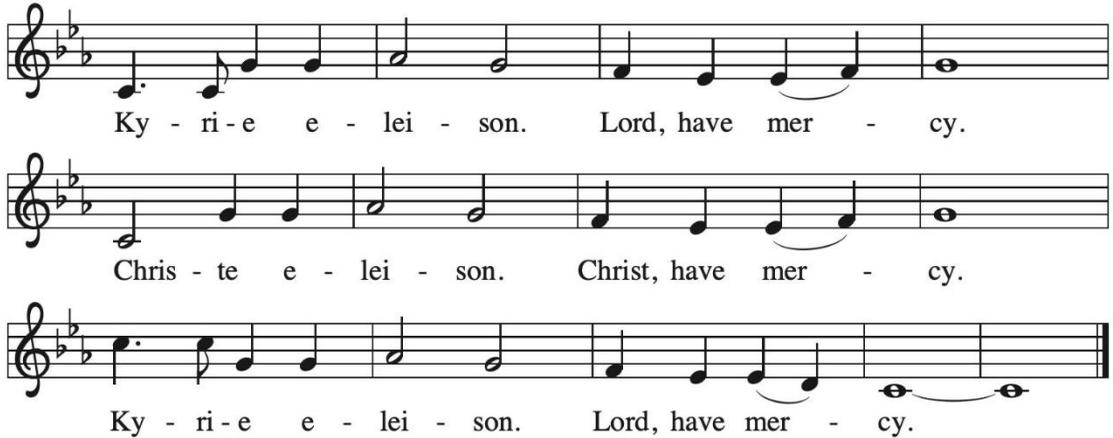
*Refrain*

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.

**\*APOSTOLIC 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.**

**\* KYRIE**



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together:

**O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

**PSALM 31:9-16** (*We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.*)

- <sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- <sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
- <sup>11</sup> 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.
- <sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- <sup>13</sup> 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.
- <sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.  
I have said, “You are my God.**
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.”**

**EPISTLE:**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

- <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

- <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel.*



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 26:14—27:66**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(you may be seated for the narrative account)*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

ELW 346



1	Ride on, ride on in maj	- es - ty!	Hear all the
2	Ride on, ride on in maj	- es - ty!	In low - ly
3	Ride on, ride on in maj	- es - ty!	The hosts of
4	Ride on, ride on in maj	- es - ty!	In low - ly



tribes	ho - san - na	cry;	O Sav - ior	meek,	your	road	pur -
pomp	ride on	to	O Christ,	your	tri - umphs	now	be -
an - gels	in the	sky	look down	with	sad	and	won - d'ring
pomp	ride on	to	bow your	meek	head	to	mor - tal



sue,	with	palms	and	scat - tered	gar - ments	strewed.		
gin	o'er	cap -	tive	death	and	con - quered		
eyes	to	see	the ap -	proach - ing	sac - ri -	fi - ce.		
pain,	then	take,	O	Christ,	your	pow'r	and	reign!

## \*APOSTLE'S CREED

We now profess the faith we share using the words of the Apostles' 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 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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence,  
let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally, especially Olga-Maria, our Pastor, Pedro, our bishop, and Carlos, our assistant to the bishop. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, 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. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, 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, *especially for Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Willah, Ann, Julie, Christen, Carol, Anne, Judy, Jeff, Gloria, Brian, James & Grace, Katie, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Avery, Dean, John, Abby, Tim, Arleen & Richard, Betty, Linda, Henry, Glenn, Gary, Connie, Greg, Beverly & Ray, Helen & Ron, Phyllis, and Max.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, all your ways are 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. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.  
**Amen.**

### **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **GRATITUDE**

# + MEAL +

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

Cruger

## \*OFFERING SONG

*Create in Me*

ELW 186



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 to me the joy of



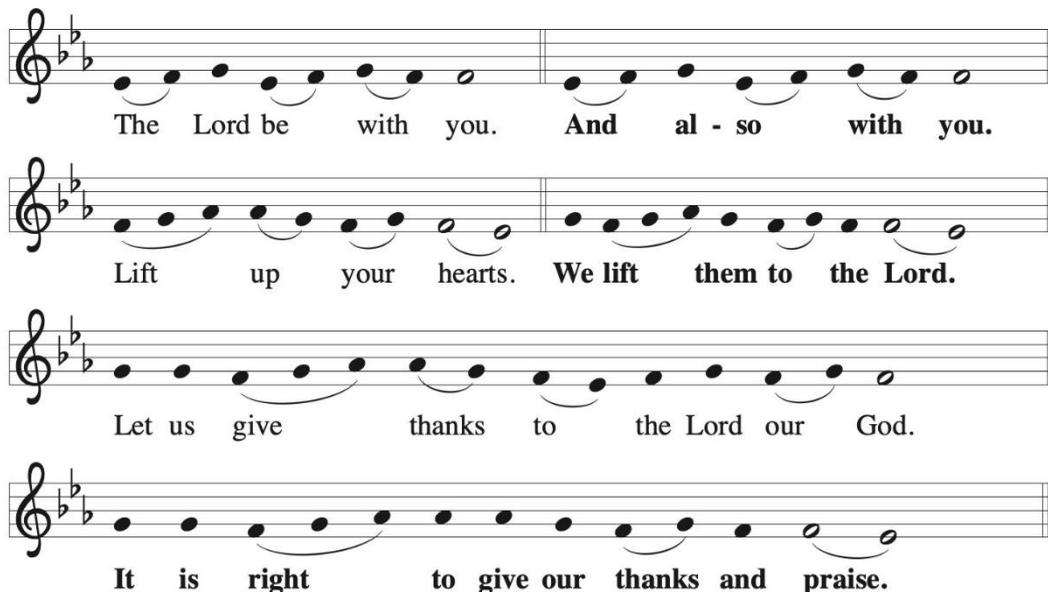
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is sure.  
Word and water, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us  
to proclaim your abiding love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ,  
our strength and our song. **Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to' and 'the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right' and 'to give our thanks and praise.'. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

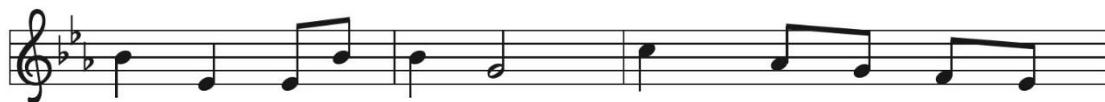
### \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:  
Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

In the night in which he was handed over,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks.  
He 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.”

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

## **\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the communion rail where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**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.

**COMMUNION HYMN(S)**

*My Song Is Love Unknown*  
*Around You, O Lord Jesus*  
*(Next pages)*

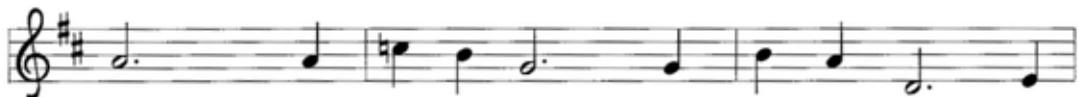
ELW 343  
 ELW 468



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
4 We cry out; we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly  
stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior  
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our  
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to



be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my  
know. But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who  
king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and  
slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes that



Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
at my need his life did spend!  
for his death we thirst and cry.  
he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still  
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;  
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.  
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.  
we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my  
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your  
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"  
bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.  
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

### **\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal, may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

+ SEND +

\*SENDING HYMN

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

ELW 351

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

**\*BENEDICTION**

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. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

arr. Charles Callahan

## PERMISSIONS

**Liturgical Text, Music, and Visuals from *With One Voice*** © 1995 Augsburg Fortress and [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS016761. All rights reserved.

***New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.*** Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

***Royal Procession on All Glory, Laud, and Honor,*** Music: Dan Miller, b. 1954. Tune: ST. THEODULPH, Melchoir Teschner, 1584-1635. Music © 1999 MorningStar Music Publishers. Music streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

***All Glory Laud and Honor,*** Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Public domain. Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635; arr. hymnal version. Arr © 2007 Augsburg Fortress. Music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

***Ride On, Ride On in Majesty,*** Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt. Public domain. Music: Graham George, 1912–1993. Music © The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

***Ah, Holy Jesus,*** Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662. Public domain.

***Create in Me a Clean Heart,*** Music: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010, Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin Augsburg Fortress. Music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274.

***My Song is Love Unknown,*** Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.. Music: John Ireland, 1879-1962. Music © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust, Music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

***Around You, O Lord Jesus,*** Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847, tr. composite. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Text reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved. Music: H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569. Public domain.

***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.*** Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite. Music: German melody, c 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750. Public domain

***Prelude on O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,*** Music: German melody, c 1500, Tune: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Arr. Charles Callahan, 1951-2023. Music © 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers. Music streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved

Grace Lutheran livestreams our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and has them available for later viewing through our website. We may also use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed, and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary.

Scan this Tithe.ly QR code with your phone camera to send an offering to Grace.



Council Representatives		Ministries	
Terry Neal	President	The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz	<i>Pastor</i>
	Stewardship		(863) 529-1229
Barbara Carpanini	Vice President		<a href="mailto:pastor@gracelakeland.com">pastor@gracelakeland.com</a>
Kristen Storms	Corp. Secretary	Kandyn Mathes	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>
	Christian Ed.		(863) 686-5585
Marty Lewis	Treasurer		<a href="mailto:church@gracelakeland.com">church@gracelakeland.com</a>
James Irish	Rec. Secretary	Lynda Mack	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Mary Flekke	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:Lynda.mackcpa@yahoo.com">Lynda.mackcpa@yahoo.com</a>
Tom Hager	Property, Outreach		(863) 660-5859
Naomi Thomsen	Finance	Mary Flekke	<i>Bell Choir Director</i>
	Memorials		<a href="mailto:mflekke@tampabay.rr.com">mflekke@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Dan Stoller	Social Ministry		(863) 660-1156
Marty Lewis	Worship/Music	Art Pranno	<i>Choir Director</i>
Jon Thiele		Gene Hodges	<i>Organist</i>
		Rita Fandrich	<i>Pianist</i>
		Marty Lewis	<i>Worship Band Director</i>
			<a href="mailto:drmslewis@gmail.com">drmslewis@gmail.com</a>
			(863) 648-4770
		Church Website	<a href="http://www.gracelakeland.com">www.gracelakeland.com</a>



# GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH