

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

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Order for Worship

Gathering

Choral Introit- "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Gates"

Chamber Choir

Lift up your heads, ye gates, Be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory?
It is the Lord, strong and mighty in battle.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to the Son of David!

Text: Ps. 24:7-8

Music: Andreas Hammerschmidt (1612-1675)

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

C: **Hosanna in the Highest!**

Processional Gospel – Luke 19:28-40

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Blessing of the Palms

The assembly may raise their palm branches.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Procession

A: Let us go forth in peace,

C: **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

The procession into the church begins, the assembly taking up branches of palm and singing the following hymn:

Processional Hymn ~ 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,
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.



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
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.



Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Prayer of the Day

P: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

Word

First Reading ~ Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

L: A reading from Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
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.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.
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.

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; he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31

Refrain, sung by Choir, then by ALL:

Fa - ther, Fa - ther, in - to your hands
I com - mend my spir - it.

Cantor: In you, O Lord, I take refuge. Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free.
you will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God.

Refrain.

Cantor: Because of all my foes I have become a reproach,
an object of scorn to my neighbors
and of fear to my friends.

Refrain.

Cantor: Those who see me in the street flee, flee from me.
I am forgotten, like someone dead,
and have become like a broken vessel.

Refrain.

Cantor: But as for me, I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God. My lot is in your hands,
deliver me from the hands of my enemies
and those who pursue me."

Refrain.

Second Reading ~ Philippians 2:5-11

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

L: A reading from Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly will remain seated.

The Passion of Our Lord

The proclamation of the Passion account is central to the liturgy this day. It is more than just a reading; it is a sung presentation of the drama of salvation. There was a time when all the scripture readings in worship were chanted. The Passions, holding a venerable and central place in the Christian year, are still frequently sung. Historically, these readings were sung by three cantors: one singing the words of the evangelist (narrator), one the words of Jesus, and one carrying the remaining voices.

Cantors:

Rob Laird, Jonathan Oehler, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen

Processional Gospel ~ Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

Cantor: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Silence for reflection follows the Passion. At the conclusion of the introduction, the choir and assembly may rise for the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day ~ My Song is Love Unknown



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



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



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
 Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
 to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
 life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
 suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

ALL 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.

ALL 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!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624–1683, alt.
 Music: John Ireland, 1879–1962
 Music © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust

LOVE UNKNOWN
 6 6 6 4 4 8

Alternate tune: RHOSYMEDRE

Apostles Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

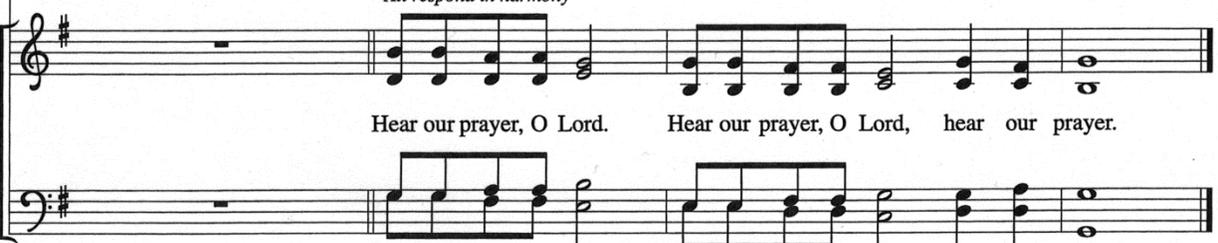
A: In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified.

After each petition, the cantor sings:



Hear our prayer, O Lord. _____

All respond in harmony



Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.

- A: In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth.
- A: Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need.
- A: On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer especially, Eleanor, Joe, Barry, Jean, Alethia, Martyne, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Jenny, Scott, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna; grant respite and renewal.
- A: You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief.
- A: You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead.
- P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Peace

- P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C: **And also with you.**

Meal

Sending Anthem ~ "Faithful Cross"

Chamber Choir

Faithful cross, O tree of beauty, tree of Eden, tree divine!
Not a grove on earth can show us leaf and flow'r and fruit so fine.
Bearer of our Savior's body, tree of life, salvation's sign!

Cross of pain, transformed to gladness, ever green and shelt'ring tree,
symbol once of shame and bondage, now the sign that we are free!
Cross of splendor, cross of glory, cross of love's great victory!

Christians, chant your praises for the tree of triumph won,
proof of overflowing mercy and redemption in the Son.
To the cross of Christ give glory while the endless ages run!

Text: Delores Dufner

Music: Thomas Pavlechko

Thanksgiving for Offerings

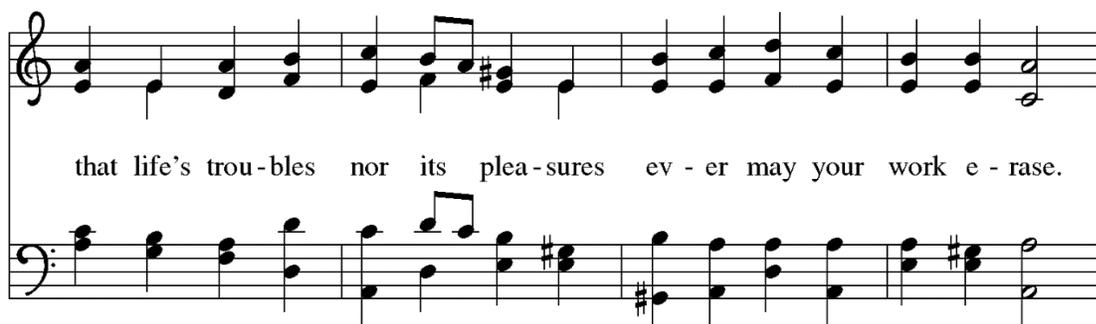
Voluntary ~ "Der am Kreuz"

Christopher Uehlein

Offertory Song ~ On My Heart Imprint Your Image



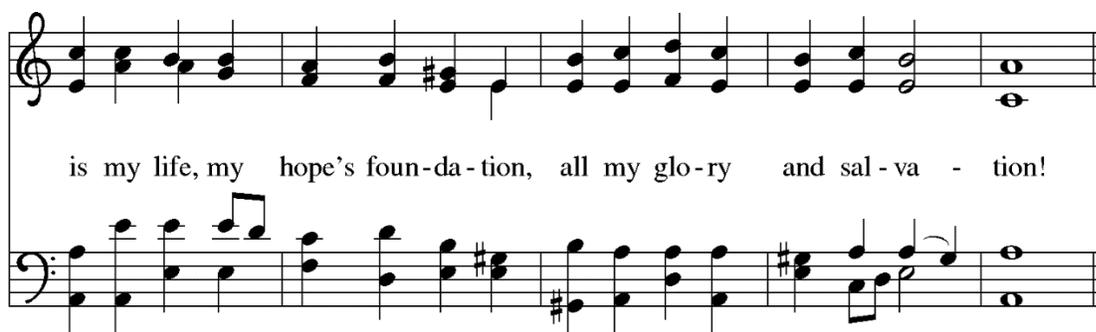
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



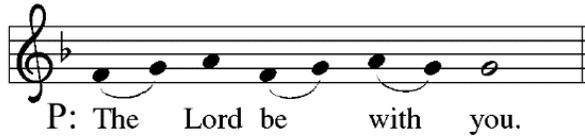
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KRÉUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

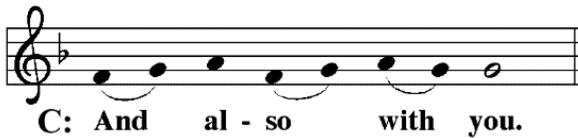
Offertory Prayer

- A: Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.
Accompany us in this meal,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

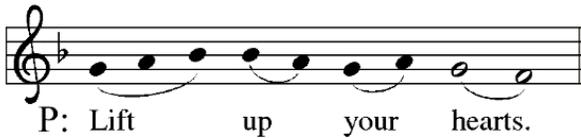
Great Thanksgiving



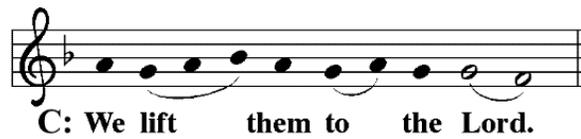
P: The Lord be with you.



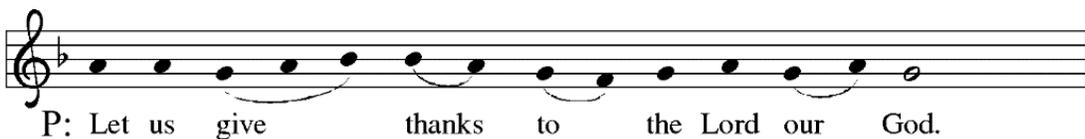
C: And also with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them to the Lord.



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



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

P: 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;
 Whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
 You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
 Transforming death into life.
 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:

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

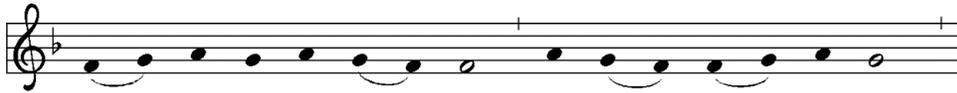
Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord.
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

Lord's Prayer



A: Lord, remember us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray.



ALL: Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

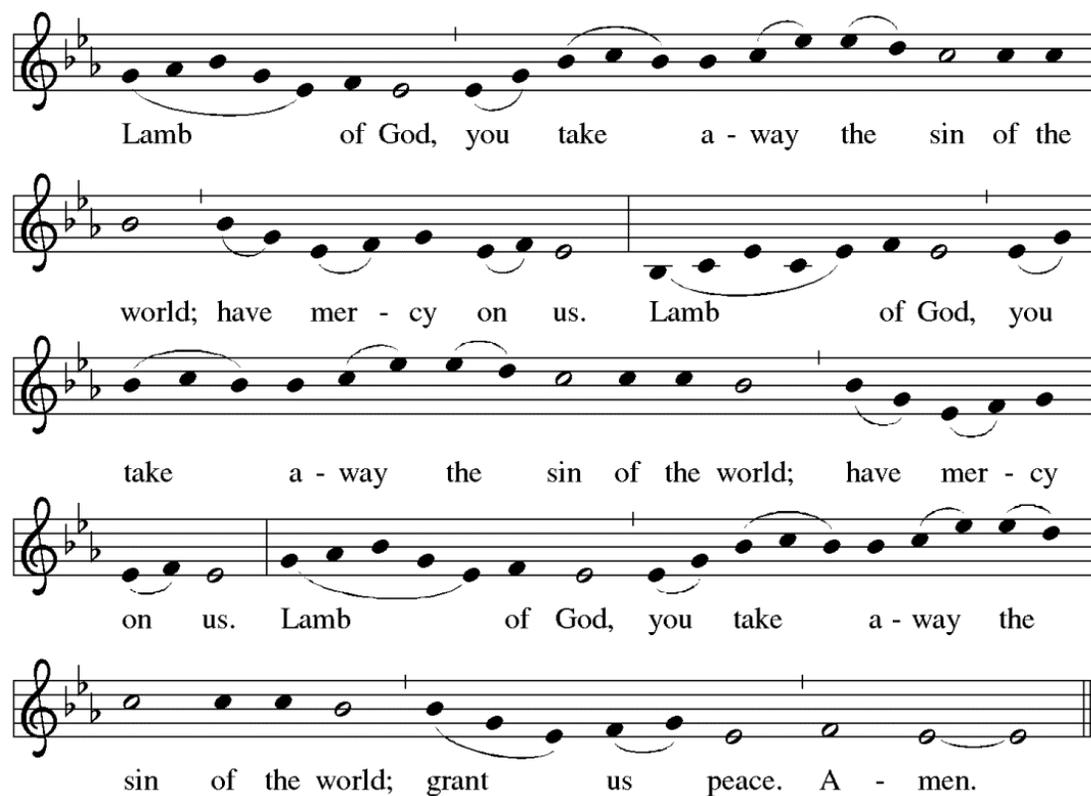
Invitation to Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.
This is the body and blood of Christ shed for you.

You may have already or will collect the pre-packaged communion elements that were consecrated when this service was recorded. If you have not already you may consume them now. If you are unable to receive you may pray this prayer of spiritual communion:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Canticle ~ Agnus Dei



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. A - men.

Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A: God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: **Amen.**

Benediction

- P: You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you † that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
- C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

- A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem ~ "O Mortal Man, Remember Well"

Chamber Choir

O mortal man, remember well, when Christ our Lord was born,
he was crucified between two thieves, and crowned with the thorn.

O mortal man, remember well, when Christ died on the rood,
'twas for our sins and wicked ways Christ shed his precious blood.

O mortal man, remember well, when Christ was wrapped in clay,
he was taken to a sepulchre where no man ever lay.

O mortal man, remember well, when Christ our Lord was born,
he was crucified between two thieves, and crowned with the thorn.

Text: *English traditional*

Music: Robert Lehman

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Chamber Choir

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Dave Ochocki

Deborah Swider, Kathleen Thren, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,
Joy Schauer, Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Rob Laird,
Bill Horan, Steve Rowe, Jonathan Oehler

