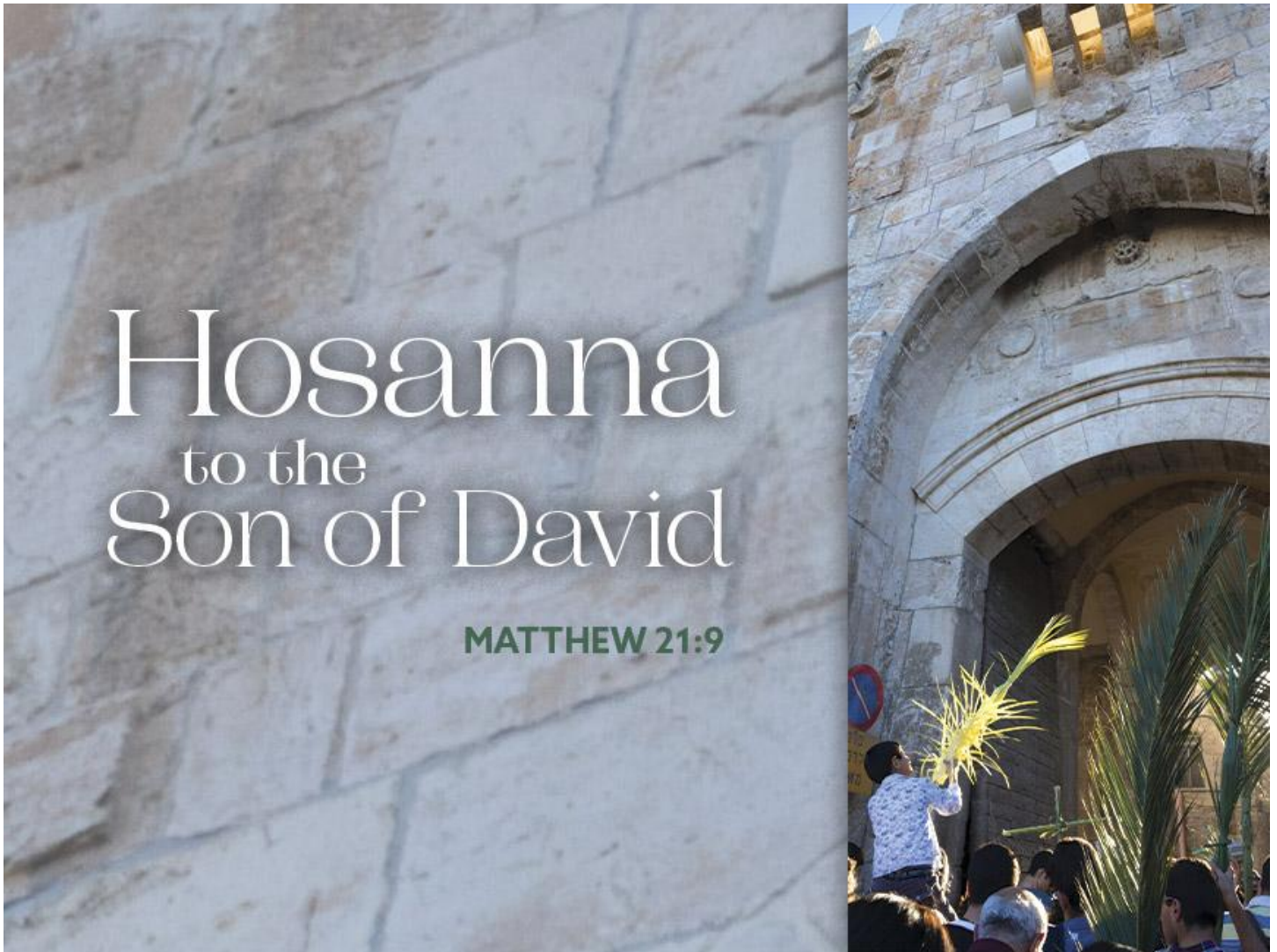


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
SUNDAY March 29th, 2026



Hosanna
to the
Son of David

MATTHEW 21:9

WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag. For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Karl Kalk in memory of Pastor W.L. & Gertrude Kulk.

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.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the LORD submits to suffering

Psalm 31:9-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Matthew 26:14—27:66

The passion of the Lord

Matthew 27:11-54 (alternate)

The passion of the Lord

Today's Hymns from the Tower
The Westminster Strike
Announcements

Church Carillon

Prelude: All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Robin Dinda (b. 1959)

ACCLAMATION

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

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. 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.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Silence is kept. Then the presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.

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.

Amen.

A Service of Passion Readings and Music

Anthem: Into the Woods My Master Went- Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

Into the woods my Master went, Clean forspent, forspent, Into the woods my Master came, Forspent with love and shame. But the olives they were not blind to Him. The little grey leaves were kind to Him, The thorn tree had a mind to Him, When into the woods He came. Out of the woods my Master came And he was well content; Out of the woods my Master came, Content with death and shame. When death and shame would woo Him last, From under the trees they drew Him last, 'Twas on a tree they slew Him—last, When out of the woods He came.

Meditation I: Isaiah 52:13-53:6

Anthem: What Wondrous Love Is This- Geoff Weaver (b. 1943)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb Who is the great "I Am"; While millions join the theme, I will sing. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be; And through eternity, I'll sing on.

Meditation II: John 12:31-36a

Anthem: Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts- Raymond Weidner (b. 1949)

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts, Thou Fount of life, and light of all, Amid what bliss the earth imparts, We turn unfilled to heed your call. Our restless spirits yearn for thee, Wherever our wayward lot is cast; Glad when your gracious smile we see, Blessed when our faith can hold thee fast.

Meditation III: Matthew 21: 1-9

Anthem: The Simplest and the Best — Alfred Fedak (b.1953)

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang. Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang. To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast, The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best. From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd, The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The Lord of men and angels rode on in lowly state, Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait. "Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing, For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King. O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice, And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice!

Meditation IV: John 18:33-19:11

Anthem: Ah, Holy Jesus- William Roger Price (b. 1959)

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?

By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus hath undone thee. 'Twas I Lord, Jesus, I it was denied thee:

I crucified thee. Lo, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered: The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered: For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth. Amen.

Meditation V: Luke 23:33-43

Anthem: Lord Jesus, Think On Me- Georgiann H. Toole (b. 1958)

Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin. From earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within. Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife. In all my pain and misery be thou my health and life. Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray. Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way. Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past, I may eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

Meditation VI: Philippians 2:5-11

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

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

After each petition the following response is given

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY Wondrous Love: Variation 2 "to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM"-
Robert Lau (b. 1943)



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.


OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray,

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.


GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.**

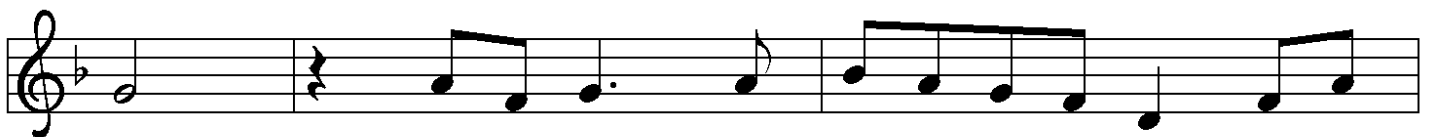
Invitation to Communion

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us Pray

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

Christ, the Life Of All the Living

ELW 339

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,

✚ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude: Wondrous Love: Variation 4 "And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on....." -Lau

In our prayers today we will remember

The family of Wendy Hayes, Judee Reed, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily. Troy, Carol, Lynnette, & Mark.

Adult Sunday School

2nd Floor of the Parish Hall

The Book of Ruth

“...*Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead.*” (Ruth 2:20)

During April we continue our study in the book of Ruth and notice the way God uses the kindness and care of others to show the Lord’s character and reveal God’s ultimate purpose of redemption through Jesus Christ. The faithfulness and compassion of these in the story inspire us to demonstrate the same. The class meets on the top floor of the Parish Hall at 11:30 each Sunday morning. An elevator is available for easy access.

Note: Due to the length of the service typical of Easter Sunday, there will be no class on April 5th.

Rehearsals to begin for the St. Paul’s Steelband

The St. Paul's Steelband will be rehearsing on **Sundays from 2-4 pm**. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to Eleanor or catch her after service. There's no need to bring anything for the first rehearsal. For those of you that just want to watch and listen, you are free to stay for as long as you like. We can't wait to get started making music together! For more information, please contact Ellie: 330-400-8543.

Cathedral Concert Series

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm

The Canton Symphony Chorus

“A Program dedicated to Mothers”

Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search “*Massillon Lutheran Churches*”

Facebook

“*St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Massillon*”

or “*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul’s*”

Capital Campaign Report

With joy and gratitude, we continue to celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms. For the past nine months, these improvements have already been a blessing—offering a warm welcome and greater accessibility to all who enter. Thank you for the generosity and faith that made this possible.

Yet our work of caring for God’s house continues.

As we look ahead, several significant needs have emerged:

- **Parish Hall Window Wells Repair** – Estimated cost: \$169,000
Addressing these issues is essential to protect the integrity of the building and prevent further damage.
- **Completion of the Heating & Cooling Conversion (Parish Hall)** – Estimated cost: \$150,000
Finishing this project will ensure a comfortable, efficient, and usable space for ministry year-round.
- **Organ Maintenance and Restoration** – Estimated cost: \$100,000–\$200,000
Our organ plays a vital role in worship, and necessary maintenance will preserve its voice for future generations.

These are substantial projects, but they are also opportunities—opportunities to care for the spaces where ministry happens, where lives are touched, and where the Gospel is proclaimed.

Through your continued generosity, we can preserve and strengthen this place of welcome, safety, and worship. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God’s grace for generations to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in this shared ministry.

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.
Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi: **Network:** sound media **Password:** Sound127

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Scott Larson
Lector	Lynda Klein
Greeters	Brady & Morgan Rupp
Communion Assistants	Greg & Lynda Klein
Sacristan	Lynda Klein
Ushers	Gary Collard, Chris Hall, Shane Jackson, & Craig Maurer
Acolytes	Scott Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING SONG	All Glory, Laud, and Honor	ELW 344
Public Domain		

HYMN OF THE DAY	Beneath the Cross of Jesus	ELW 338
Public Domain		

SENDING HYMN	Christ, the Life Of All the Living	ELW 339
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True Humility

The servanthood of a teacher in Isaiah, the outcast in the psalm, those who bow down in Philippians: today's readings teach humility. On this day we move from Christ's triumphant ride on a humble donkey to the humiliation of the cross. The humility of the characters in the passion story is in question: Judas, Pilate, the Twelve, chief priests and elders, Barabbas, the crowd, the soldiers, two bandits. Among other things, their lack of humility is what brings about the passion of Christ. There is only one truly humble person in this story: Jesus the Christ. Matthew's humble Jesus cries out from the cross to ask God why he has been forsaken.

Only in the stories of the resurrection do other humble characters appear: the centurion, the women, Joseph of Arimathea. A careful look at the complexity of humility in the palm and passion stories could set up a reflective theme carried through to Easter. Who in each story do we regard as humble? Why? How does our humility compare? Are there characters who seem to gain or lose humility in the course of the story from the triumphant entry to the resurrection? A deep and meaningful understanding of humility is a worthy and lasting gift to take away from the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

Joseph of Arimathea is a particularly good character on which to base an understanding of humility. A close look at all references to him in the Gospels, and a bit of creative narrative, create an image of a truly humble believer. He is referenced in both canonical and apocryphal texts. His devotion represents deep humility that leads to the very finest of good works as he cares for the body of Jesus.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

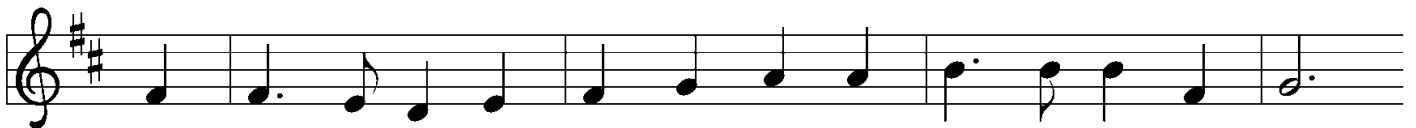
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1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf-fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par-don, for the sor-rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar-den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687