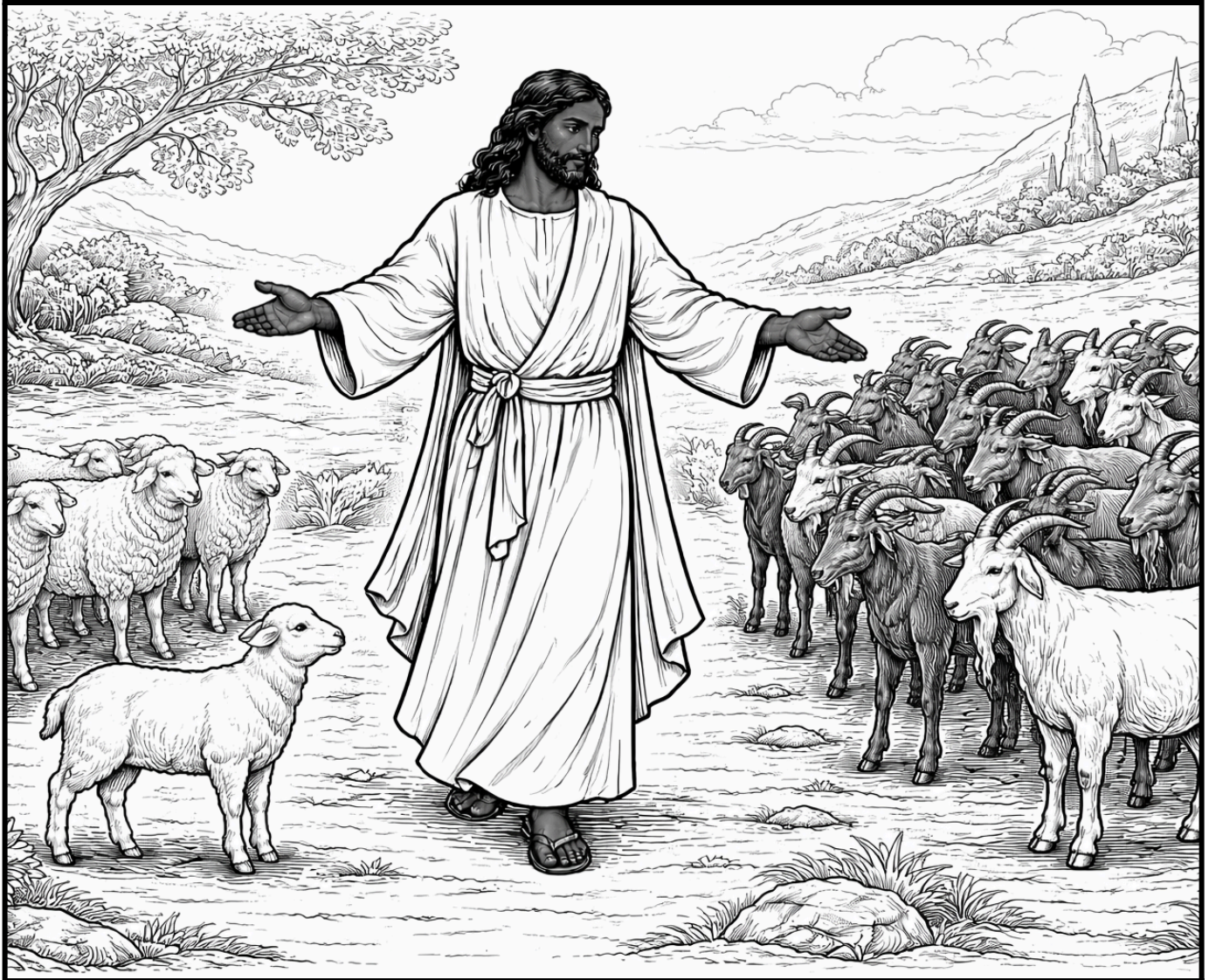




TREE OF LIFE

Christian Fellowship

“for Healing, Obedience, & Peace on Earth” (H.O.P.E.)



Palm Sunday | 29 Mar 2026

“Good & Faithful Servant”

Matthew 24:1—25:46

✠ The Way of Jesus Liturgy ✠

Invocation

Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, ^{Gen 1:1} ♦ **you created us to “serve and protect” your creation.** ^{Gen 2:15} ♦ But we destroy your creation ^{Rev 11:18} ♦ **through Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ^{Gen 3:1—4:17} ♦ So you send your Word in the flesh of your Son Jesus, ^{John 1:14} who says, ♦ **“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has arrived!”** ^{Matt 4:17} **Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me!”** ^{Matt 16:24} ♦ And you baptize us with your Holy Spirit ^{Acts 1:5} ♦ **so we might care for all your creation by following Jesus’s Way of “faith, hope, and love.”** ^{1 Cor 13:13}

Hear what Jesus says, ♦ **“Love the Lord your Creator with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** ♦ This is the first and great command. And the second is like it: ♦ **Love your neighbor as yourself.”** ^{Matt 22:37-39}

Processional Song — GC2 656 “Whatsoever You Do”

REFRAIN: ♪ *Whatsoever you do to the least of his people, you have done for Jesus.* ♪
♪ *When I was hungry, you gave me your food. When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink. Now enter into the home of my Father.* ♪ (REFRAIN)
♪ *When I was homeless, you opened your door. When I was naked, you gave me your coat. Now enter into the home of my Father.* ♪ (REFRAIN)
♪ *When I was hated, you visited me. When I was sickly, you cared for my needs. Now enter into the home of my Father.* ♪ (REFRAIN)
♪ *When I was weary, you helped me find rest. When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears. Now enter into the home of my Father.* ♪ (REFRAIN)
♪ *When I was abused, you stood by my side. When I was lonely, you gave me your love. Now enter into the home of my Father.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

Palm Sunday Litany

Behold! Lord Jesus came to his people in Israel! ♦ **Hosanna! He comes to save us!**

Behold! Christ Jesus is still coming among us today! ♦ **Hosanna! He comes to save us!**

Behold! King Jesus will come to set all things right! ♦ **Hosanna! He comes to save us!**

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” ^{Matt 18:20}
(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming among us)

♪ *All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring. You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.* ♪ (LSB 442)

The Lord Jesus be with you. ♦ **And also with you.** ♦ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to be good and faithful servants who love others in the way you love us. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. † **Amen.**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “If you hold onto your soul, ♦ **you will lose it.** ♦ But if you let go of your

soul, ♦ **you will find it.** ^{Matt 10:39} ♦ You must be born again through water and the Spirit
♦ **to enter the Creator’s Kingdom.** ^{John 3:5} ♦ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ♦ **I
surrender to you all my † mind, all my † heart, and all my † body and † soul.**

(we make the sign of the cross—touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

“Father, not my will, ♦ **but your will be done.** ^{Matt 26:39} ♦ Father, into your hands ♦ **I
commit my spirit.**” ^{Luke 23:46} ♪ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev’ry
part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♪ Take my hands
and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the
Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my money and fam’ly, give me faith and set me free.
Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now. ♪ (LSB 783)*

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, “Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Take my Way upon
you and learn from me, and you will find rest for your souls.” ^{Matt 11:28-29}

♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and
follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind.
Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind. ♪ (LSB 770)*

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs — Cyril of Jerusalem

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone
before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Cyril who
underwent eleven years of imprisoned exile in 357 AD for selling the gifts of the
Roman Emperor and the goods of the church in order to help feed the poor. Help us
learn from his faith and example, † **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm — *Psalm 19*



♪ *The heavens proclaim the | truth of God
* they declare the work | of his hands.
By day and night they | pour forth speech
* their words have gone out to | all the earth.
The law of the Lord | restores life,
* his words are more desirable | than all wealth.
Through his words his servants | are well trained
* and in obeying him there is | great blessing. ♪*

Law & Prophets — Isaiah 26:1-11

The Prophets reading comes from Isaiah 26. ♦ **“Those who listen will live.”** ^{John 5:25}
We do not live on bread alone, ♦ **but on every Word from the Lord.** ^{Matt 4:4}

Epistle — 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

The Epistle reading comes from 1 Cor 12. ♦ **“Those who listen will live.”** ^{John 5:25}
We do not live on bread alone, ♦ **but on every Word from the Lord.** ^{Matt 4:4}

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 24:45-51

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *If you lose your life for my sake, you will find it; if*

you want to save your life, let it go. Take up your cross, deny yourself. Come, follow me, follow me. ♪ (tune: GC2 688)

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew 24. ♦ **“Those who listen will live.”** John 5:25

“If you have ears, then listen!” Matt 13:9 ♦ **Lord, help us to practice your Word.** Matt 7:24

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know what you do. I search minds and hearts and I will give to each of you according to your practices. Rev 2:19, 23 Remove the log from your own eye!” Matt 7:5

(silence for reflection)

For prostituting ourselves with the false gods of Civilization, Ex 20:3 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For trusting the works of human hands, especially money, Ex 20:4 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, Ex 20:7 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For overworking land, animals, and each other, Ex 20:8 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting our fathers and mothers in Christ, Ex 20:12 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For being violent to our bodies and your creation, Ex 20:13 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For degrading ourselves and others with our sexuality, Ex 20:14 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For trying to possess and control your creation, Ex 20:15 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For not being vulnerable and honest with others, Ex 20:16 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

For competing with others and desiring more, Ex 20:17 ♦ **Father, forgive us.**

Jesus says, “Enter through the narrow Way. Because the Way of Destruction is wide and easy ♦ **and many enter through it.** ♦ But the Way of Life is narrow and difficult ♦ **and few find it.** Matt 7:13-14 ♦ Whoever does not disown his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and even his own soul, ♦ **cannot be my disciple.** ♦ Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me ♦ **cannot be my disciple.**” Luke 14:26-27

♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Repent! I am standing at the door knocking!” Rev 3:19-20 Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sicknesses! Rev 18:4

Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Matt 24:2 Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ♦ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ♦ Jesus says, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Matt 5:7 If you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you. Matt 6:14 Put your sword away. If you take up the sword, you will die by the sword.” Matt 26:52 Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including every member of this church? ♦ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ♦ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk!” Matt 9:5 Remember what you have heard and obey it!” Rev 3:3 † **Amen.**

Song of the Day — *“The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like”* (tune: LSB 803)

♪ *The Kingdom of Heaven is like bridesmaids waiting on the Lord, they took their lamps*

into the night, for they soon expected word. The wise ones went outside to wait, with their oil and much to spare, maybe the groom had been delayed, for so much was in his care. ♪

♪ *The foolish bridesmaids waited, too, with lamps that soon lost their light. Unprepared, they had no more fuel, none to get them through the night. The groom came with a sudden shout; and the party then began. All the fools were gone and left out; all the wise were still at hand. ♪*

♪ *O Lord, remind us that your Day will come with a great surprise. So may we faithfully obey and be people who are wise. Deeds of justice, words of prayer, acts of love and kindness too, are the oil we must prepare as we daily wait on you. ♪*

♪ *You give to some many talents — to others, just two or three; but whatever you give to us, we must manage faithfully. For you, Lord, only want service and don't want worldly success; you daily call all your people to practice their faithfulness. ♪*

♪ *We foolishly look for comfort; and we long to be secure. Yet faithful and loving service is what you value far more. You give us all that is needed; you love and forgive and save. Then, sending us out to serve all, you now call us to be brave. ♪*

Waiting on the Creator

♪ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.*

♪ *Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen. ♪ (LSB 637)*

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

Jesus says, “Learn from the birds. They do not store things up and your heavenly Father feeds them. ^{Matt 6:26} Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and everything you need will be given to you. Do not worry about tomorrow. ^{Matt 6:33-34} Stay awake and pray so you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ^{Matt 26:41}

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ **Lord have mercy.** ♪* Father, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ **Lord have mercy.** ♪* Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent’s family, John Espino, Bill Mellott, Cebra Sims, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ **Lord have mercy.** ♪* Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our anxieties, traumas, and addictions to Civilization’s Way, so we may walk in Jesus’s Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the way you have loved and forgiven us. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ **Lord have mercy.** ♪* Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in difficult times and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that all your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ **Lord have mercy.** ♪* Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you “work all things for the good of those who love you.” ^{Rom 8:28} ♦

“Our Father in Heaven, may your name be holy, may your Kingdom come, and may your will be done—on Earth as in Heaven. Give us this day what we need for today. Forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Do not abandon us when we are tempted, but pull us away from what is evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours—now and forever.” ^{Matt 6:9-13} † Amen.

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord’s Peace

Jesus says, “Before you come to the Lord’s altar, **♦ make peace with each other.**” ^{Matt 5:24}
Blessed are the peacemakers, **♦ for they will be called the Creator’s children.**” ^{Matt 5:9}

Offering & Musical Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth.” ^{Matt 6:19} To be my disciple you must give up all you own. ^{Luke 14:33} Sell your possessions, give to the poor, and you will have a storage in heaven.” ^{Matt 19:21} We offer everything to the Lord, as we offer gifts to this church.

Pledge of Allegiance

♫ We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us! *♫ (LSB 816)* Jesus says, “If you pledge your allegiance to me before others, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father.” ^{Matt 10:32}

♦ I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of Heaven and Earth, of all things visible and invisible.

♦ I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God’s only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will not end.

♦ I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. † Amen.

Thanksgiving — Εὐχαριστία

Let us give thanks to our Creator! **♦ It is right to give him thanks and praise!**

Father, we praise and thank you, **♦ for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** **♦** We are grateful for all that you give, especially for... Father, we thank you for marrying yourself to us and uniting Heaven and Earth, Spirit and Flesh, and Christ and the Church through your Son Jesus! ^{Eph 5:32}

♫ Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on in faith. Take up your cross amid the strife, trust in God and lay down your life. ♫ Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die. O Christ, you conquer death and sin, and your Kingdom will now begin. ♫ (LSB 441)

† Words of Our Lord Jesus †

Jesus says, “Whoever humbles himself is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.” ^{Matt 18:4} On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. Jesus said, ♦ **“I have given you an example. Do as I have done for you.”** ^{John 13:15} **Love others. In the same way I have loved you, love others. By this all will know that you are my disciples: if you love each other.”** ^{John 13:34-35} ♦ During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, “This is my † body, given for you. Do the same in my memory.” After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, “This is my † blood of the covenant, poured out for you, for the forgiveness of sins. Do the same in my memory.” ^{Matt 26:26-28, Luke 22:19-20}

♫ *Oh come Lord Jesus come and dine and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov'r all the earth. Come now, come now! Our Lord Jesus and bring your healing love to us!* ♫ (LSB 357)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Jesus says, “I am the Bread of Life. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me.” ^{John 6:51, 56} As we feed on the Bread of Life ♦ **we are made members of Christ’s Body.** ^{1 Cor 10:16-17} ♦ We no longer live for ourselves ♦ **but Christ lives within us.** ^{Gal 2:20} ♦ We invite all Baptized members of the universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us ♦ **as the Creator’s Lamb mysteriously gives himself to us in, with, and under this bread, wine, and communion.** ♫ *When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. ♫ Were the whole realm of creation mine, that would be a gift far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.* ♫ (LSB 425)

Song — “There Is a Mighty Question” (tune: LSB 684)

- ♫ *There is a mighty question we ask as nations rage: Just when will be Christ's coming, the ending of the age? Take care, for not a stone will be left standing on stone, all of Civilization will then be overthrown.* ♫
- ♫ *For in the days of Noah, the people went along, In eating and in drinking, in business and in song — Then suddenly the world collapsed with great, surprising power; So too will be Christ's coming, and no one knows the hour.* ♫
- ♫ *So keep awake and watchful; salvation is at hand! Our hope is in Christ Jesus, and on God's love we stand. The night is almost over, we wait for God's new day, And through the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus' Way.* ♫
- ♫ *Be ready in your living, for when you feed the poor, Or give to thirsty children the water they long for, And when you welcome strangers and help the ones in need, Christ says: “Receive my kingdom, for you are serving me.”* ♫

Ἀγάπη Feast & Text Discussion

Jesus says, “Do you love me? ♦ **Then feed my sheep.**” ^{John 21:17} ♦ We now move to our Bible study room to continue devoting ourselves ♦ **“to the Apostles’ teaching, to communion with each other, to the sharing of bread, and to prayer.”** ^{Acts 2:42}

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Jesus says, “Love your enemies ♦ **so you will be children of your heavenly Father.**
Matt 5:44-45 ♦ Go proclaim, ♦ **the Kingdom of Heaven has arrived!** ♦ Freely you have received from the Creator, ♦ **now freely you must give.** Matt 10:7-8 ♦ I am sending you like sheep among wolves, ♦ **so be as clever as serpents and as non-violent as doves.**
Matt 10:16 ♦ Make disciples of all nations, ♦ **baptizing and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded.** Matt 28:19-20 ♦ Do not be afraid to suffer! ♦ **Be faithful through death and I will give you the crown of life.”** Rev 2:10 † **Amen.**

♫ *Go to dark Gethsemane, you who feel the tempter’s pow’r. Your Lord Jesus’ conflict see, watch with him one painful hour. Shun not suff’ring, shame or loss, learn from him to bear your cross. ♫ To his cross go make your climb, there to worship at his feet. It is here his kingdom’s time, his self-sacrifice complete. “God forgive them,” hear his cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die. ♫ (LSB 436)*

Blessing

Jesus says, “Blessed are you who are poor, for the Creator’s Kingdom is yours. Luke 6:20
Blessed are your eyes, because they see. Blessed are your ears, because they listen. Matt 13:16
Blessed are those who listen to the Creator’s Word and obey it.” Luke 11:28 † **Amen.**

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- * Faith & Film: “The Chosen” Season 5 (Mar 30, Apr 6, 13)
 - * Holy Week Schedule: Mandate Thursday — 6 pm, Apr 2 @ DG (potluck)
 - Good Friday — 6 pm, Apr 3 @ Sanctuary
 - Holy Saturday — 6 pm, Apr 4 @ DG
 - Easter Liturgy (9:30 am) & Breakfast (10:45 am, potluck)
 - * Growing in H.O.P.E.: Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm (early start!) @ DG, starting April 8 (potluck), applying the week’s sermon text — food & fellowship starts at 5:00 pm
 - * Game Night: First Fridays @ DG (6 pm, BYOB), Apr 10, May 8
 - * Congregational Affiliation Survey: Pick one up in the back and please return by Mar 29

Weekly Calendar | March 29 - April 5, 2026

Sun, Mar 29	9:30 am	Liturgy & Αγάπη Feast Matthew 24:1—25:46
Mon, Mar 30	6:00 pm	Faith & Film
Thurs, Apr 2	6:00 pm	Mandate Thursday @ DG
Fri, Apr 3	6:00 pm	Good Friday @ Sanctuary
Sat, Apr 4	6:00 pm	Holy Saturday @ DG
Sun, Apr 5	9:30 am	Liturgy & Αγάπη Feast Matthew 28:1-20

Tree of Life Christian Fellowship (722 Reynolds Ave) — www.TreeofLifeKC.com

Luke Kammrath, Pastor — luke.kammrath@gmail.com (913) 303-0977

Marie Sasnett, Financial Deacon — marie.stlukes@gmail.com

Marsha Oyer, Music — arbpe@sbcglobal.net

Disciple Garden (DG): 3200 N 10th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104

Donate Online Through Venmo: @StLukes-Church

