

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

March 29, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Today's readings begin with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as crowds welcome him with palms and shouts of praise. They then lead us through the events of the early days of Holy Week, as Jesus teaches, confronts injustice, and prepares his disciples for what is to come.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME *(Those who are able, please gather outdoors at the front entrance with palms)*

ACCLAMATION

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

Hosanna in the highest.

JESUS' GREAT ENTRANCE

Let us prepare our hearts for Jesus' Great Entrance into Jerusalem.

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

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This 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."

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

⁹The 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!"

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

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray as we hold high our palms. *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.**

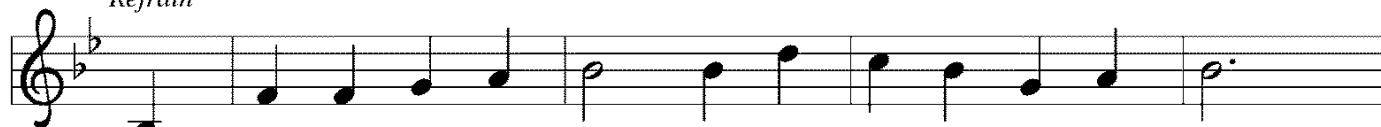
PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of the Lord.**

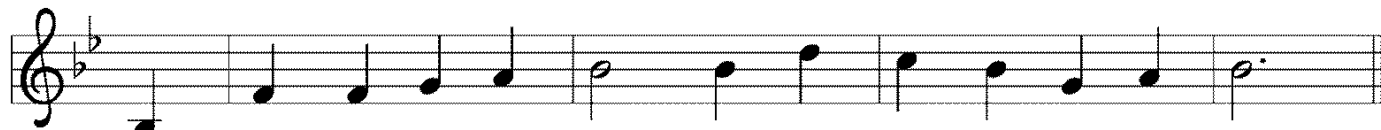
The congregation processes into the Narthex with palms raised singing as they enter the Sanctuary. Follow the choir down the center aisle, taking your seat as you come to it or continuing to follow the choir as they split and turn up the side aisles to your seat.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain



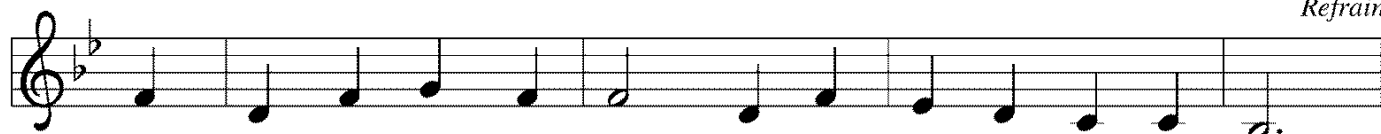
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



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,



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.

Refrain

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.”

¹² Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, “It is written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a den of robbers.”

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry ¹⁶ and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?’” ¹⁷ He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

GREETING

The grace and light of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (aimed toward Grades K thru 6th. but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

JESUS’ PASSION STORY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK

INTRODUCTION

CENTERING ANTHEM **Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley** **Handbell Choir**

MONDAY – Chapters 21-23

JESUS CURSES THE FIG TREE – (MK. MID OCT/PENTECOST)

In the morning Jesus was hungry and saw a fig tree by the road, but it had only leaves and no fruit. He said, “May no fruit ever come from you again,” and the tree withered at once. The disciples were amazed, but Jesus told them that if they have faith and do not doubt, they can do even greater things, and whatever they ask in prayer with faith will be granted.

JESUS’ AUTHORITY IS QUESTIONED (MK & LK – IN THE FALL/PENTECOST)

When Jesus entered the temple and was teaching, the chief priests and elders asked him, **“By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority?”**

Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was John’s baptism from heaven, or from human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves, realizing that either answer would cause problems. So, they replied, **“We do not know.”**

Then Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

HYMN

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838 (vs. 1 & 4)

Narrator: Jesus tells three parables that challenged religious leaders and listeners alike to consider how they respond to God's invitation, revealing that God's kingdom belongs not simply to those who claim faith, but to those who receive and live it.

PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS - (UNIQUE TO MATT. LATE SEPT/PENTECOST)

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "**The first.**" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS (Mk & Lk – EARLY OCTOBER/PENTECOST)

Jesus told a parable: A landowner planted a vineyard and leased it to tenants. When he sent servants to collect the harvest, the tenants beat and killed them. Finally, he sent his son, but they killed him too, hoping to take the inheritance.

*Jesus asked what the owner would do. They replied that **he would destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others who would produce the harvest.***

Jesus then said the scriptures speak of the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone, and that the kingdom of God will be given to people who bear its fruit. The chief priests and Pharisees realized he was speaking about them, and they wanted to arrest him, but feared the crowds.

PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET (Lk – EARLY SEPTEMBER/PENTECOST)

Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent servants to call the invited guests, but they refused to come and even mistreated and killed the servants.

The king punished them and then told his servants to go into the streets and invite everyone they could find, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king saw a guest without a wedding robe, he had him thrown out. **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW 802 (vs. 1)

Narrator: Still on Monday the religious leaders challenge Jesus, but his answers reveal the deeper wisdom of God's kingdom and the heart of faithful living.

THE QUESTION ABOUT PAYING TAXES (Mk – MID-OCTOBER/PENTECOST)

The Pharisees and Herodians tried to trap Jesus by asking whether it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Knowing their intent, Jesus asked them to show him a coin and asked whose image was on it. When they said, "Caesar's," he replied, "**Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.**" Amazed by his answer, they left him and went away.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE RESURRECTION (Mk – EARLY NOVEMBER PENTECOST)

Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, questioned Jesus about a woman who had been married to seven brothers. They asked whose wife she would be in the resurrection.

Jesus replied that they misunderstood both the scriptures and the power of God. In the resurrection people do not marry but are like the angels in heaven. And God is "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"—**not of the dead, but of the living.** The crowds were astonished at his teaching.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT (Mk – LATE OCTOBER/PENTECOST)

When the Pharisees gathered, a lawyer asked Jesus which commandment in the law was greatest. Jesus answered: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.”** And the second is like it: **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Then Jesus asked them whose son the Messiah is. When they answered, “The son of David,” he asked how David could call the Messiah “Lord” if he is his son.

Narrator: If David called the Messiah “Lord,” then the Messiah must be greater than David, not merely his descendant. So, Jesus is inviting them to realize that the Messiah is more than a political heir of David.

HYMN All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!**ELW 634 (vs. 1 & 3)**

Narrator: Next in a series of sharp warnings called **“woes,”** Jesus criticized the scribes and Pharisees for hypocrisy and for neglecting justice, mercy, and faith while focusing on outward appearances and minor rules.

JESUS DENOUNCES SCRIBES & PHARISEES (LK – EARLY NOV/PENTECOST)

Jesus told the crowds and his disciples that the scribes and Pharisees teach the law but do not practice it. They place heavy burdens on others and seek honor and recognition, while neglecting humility and service. Jesus said the greatest among them should be a servant, **for those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**

He then pronounced woes on the scribes and Pharisees, calling them hypocrites and blind guides. They focus on minor rules while neglecting the weightier matters of the law—**justice, mercy, and faith.** Though they appear righteous outwardly, inside they are full of greed, hypocrisy, and lawlessness, like whitewashed tombs that look beautiful outside but contain death within. Jesus warned that, like their ancestors who rejected the prophets, they would also reject those sent by God, and judgment would come upon them.

THE LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM – (MATT. -MID OCT/PENTECOST)

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, **‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’**”

HYMN Thy Holy Wings**ELW 613 (vs. 1 & 2)****MONDAY EVENING & TUESDAY - Chapter 24****THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE FORETOLD (Mk – LATE NOV./LAST SUN OF PENTECOST)**

Narrator: It is now evening on Monday and as Jesus left the temple, the disciples pointed out its impressive buildings. But Jesus told them that the time would come when not one stone of the temple would be left standing.

SIGN OF THE END OF THE AGE – (Mk – LATE NOV/LAST WEEK OF PENTECOST)

While sitting on the Mount of Olives (outside the city on the way to Bethany for the night), the disciples asked Jesus about the signs of his coming and the end of the age. Jesus warned them not to be led astray, for false messiahs, wars, famines, and earthquakes would come—**but these would only be the beginning of the birth pangs.**

PERSECUTIONS FORETOLD – (LK – MID NOV/LAST WEEK OF PENTECOST)

Jesus warned that his followers would face persecution, betrayal, and deception, and that many would fall away as love grows cold. But those who endure to the end will be saved, and the good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed to all nations before the end comes.

THE DESOLATING SACRILEGE (DESECRETION) – (NEVER APPEARS IN THE REVISED COMMON LECTONARY)

When you see the desolating sacrilege standing in the holy place, as spoken of by the prophet Daniel, those in Judea must flee to the mountains. Do not stop to gather possessions; escape quickly. Those days will bring great suffering unlike anything before, but for the sake of God's chosen people they will be shortened.

Do not be misled by those who claim the Messiah is here or there, for false messiahs and prophets will appear and deceive many. Remember that I have warned you ahead of time. **When the Son of Man comes, it will be unmistakable**—like lightning flashing across the sky. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures gather.

THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN – (LK -ADVENT 1)

After that time of suffering, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its light, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear, and all the peoples of the earth will see him coming on the clouds with power and great glory. He will send his angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from every corner of heaven and earth.

THE LESSON OF THE FIG TREE – MATT. – LAST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST)

³²“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, **but my words will not pass away.**”

HYMN**My Lord, What a Morning****ELW 438**

Narrator: Having warned that the end and a new beginning will eventually come, Jesus then warned to be ready.

THE NECESSITY OF WATCHFULNESS – (MATT – ADVENT 1)

No one knows the day or hour of the Son of Man's coming—only the Father. As in the days of Noah, people will be going about their ordinary lives until the moment it comes suddenly. Some will be taken and others left. Therefore, **keep watch and be ready**, for the Son of Man will come at an unexpected time.

THE FAITHFUL OR THE UNFAITHFUL SLAVE – (LUKE – END OF PENTECOST & MK - ADVENT 1)

Who is the faithful and wise servant whom the master places in charge to care for the household? Blessed is the servant whom the master finds doing the work when he returns; that servant will be trusted with even more. But if a servant assumes the master is delayed and mistreats others while living carelessly, the master will return unexpectedly and judge that servant, **where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Chapter 25

PARABLE OF THE BRIDESMAIDS – (MATT. EARLY NOV./PENTECOST)

The kingdom of heaven is like ten bridesmaids who took lamps to meet the bridegroom. Five were wise and brought extra oil, but five were foolish and did not. When the bridegroom was delayed, they all slept. At midnight the call came that he was arriving. The wise were ready, but the foolish had no oil and went to buy more. While they were gone, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready entered the wedding feast and the door was shut. When the others returned, they were turned away.

So keep awake, for you do not know the day or the hour.

Narrator: Jesus then described who will enter heaven after the judgement.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS – (MATT. – LATE NOV./LAST SUNDAY IN PENTECOST)

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who entrusted his property to his servants before leaving on a journey. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to ability. The first two servants invested what they received and doubled it, but the third hid his talent in the ground. When the master returned, he praised the first two for being faithful and welcomed them into his joy. But the servant who hid his talent was rebuked for fear and laziness, his talent was taken away, and he was cast into the outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS – (MATT. ADVENT 1)

Jesus said that when the Son of Man comes in glory, he will gather all nations and separate people like a shepherd separates sheep from goats. Those who cared for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, and imprisoned will inherit the kingdom, **for in serving the least they served him.** But those who failed to care for them will be sent away, **for in neglecting the least they neglected him.**

HYMN**Stay with Me****ELW 348 (2x)****WEDNESDAY - Chapter 26****THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS**

¹ When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ² “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the courtyard of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴ and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵ But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

THE ANOINTING AT BETHANY – (JN – LENT 5)

While Jesus was at Bethany, a woman poured costly perfume on his head. The disciples complained that it could have been sold and the money given to the poor. But Jesus said she had done a beautiful thing, preparing him for burial, and that wherever the good news is proclaimed, her act will be remembered.

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

ANTHEM**Christ Alone****Vocal Choir**

L: 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. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show 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.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for responses)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING COLLECTION - *Grateful for all God has given us, let us offer a portion back to God at this time.*

Offerings towards our Ministries are also welcomed by scanning this code with your phone camera.



OFFERTORY

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496 (vs. 3)

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat-tered	and grown,



Refrain

wom - an	or man,	no more.
one in the Lord	of all.	
gath - ered to one	for all.	

L: OFFERING PRAYER

For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.

O God, maker of heaven and earth, **your steadfast love embraces all creation. 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as
we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center
aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive
bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty
glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent
meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.
(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the pew behind the lectern as
the altar is cleared after communion distribution)*

COMMUNION HYMN

Eat This Bread

ELW 472 (4x)

L: POST 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.**

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.

REMINDERS

(If you are giving a reminder, come to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared).

SENDING HYMN – (with palms waving) Blessed Is the One ACS 929 (repeated as needed)

DISMISSAL AND SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

As we go let us share the peace of Christ with one another. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, March 29, 2026

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Music Director: Helen Glatthaar

Assisting Minister:

Lectors: Heather Johnson, Arlene Creswell, Valerie Holcomb, Bob Herold, Keith Clark, Joyce & Steve Chmura

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donald Milbrandt, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden, Cheryl Davis

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

Communion Assistants: Jill Little & Heather Johnson

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, March 29, 2026 Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Monday, March 30, 2026

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

6:00 p.m. Parish Life Via Teams

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

6:00 p.m. Voice Choir- Chapel

Thursday, April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Friday, April 3, 2026 Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tennebrae Service

Saturday, April 4, 2026

11:00 a.m. MFN Board Meeting (Youth Room)

Sunday, April 5, 2026 Easter

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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