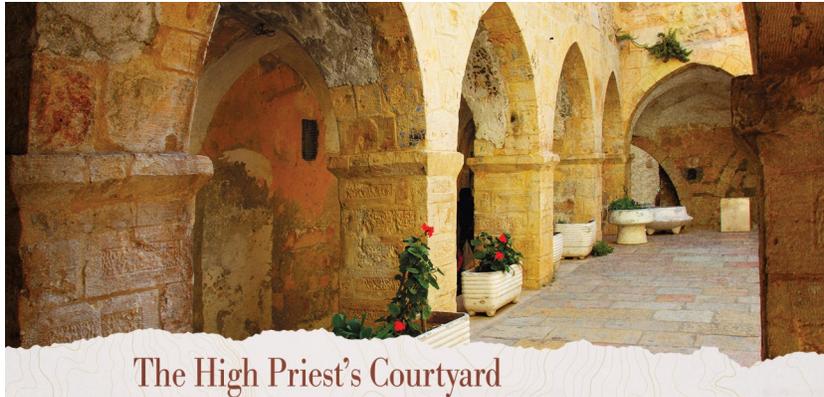


Welcome

4th Week in Lent

March 17, 2021

3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Led by Pastor Heidi Punt



The High Priest's Courtyard

UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused



Our Mission: *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20

Our Vision: *One Relationship at a Time*

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)

9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor - pastor@ulcsalisbury.org
(815) 883-4883

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org

Facilities Manager: Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 - sexton@ulcsalisbury.org

A charter congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

Week 4: The Courtyard

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER OF SERVICE

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it. Matthew 26:69-70

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C To see the depths of his love.

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C We follow Christ to the courtyard.

P It belongs to the High Priest Caiaphas—but Peter is there and so are others.

C Peter denies Jesus three times.

P But all is not lost. After his collapse, God's grace is amazing.

C Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!

The organ silently introduces and leads the Congregation of the Hymn 487 Let us ever walk with Jesus

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.**

**Let us gladly die with Jesus, since by death he conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Gracious and most merciful Father—

C In the light of your holiness I see myself as I really am.

P And I am guilty.

C I confess that I have impure thoughts and unclean lips.

P I think too highly of myself and too little of others.

C I cling too tightly to the treasures of this world.

P That I cannot open my hands to receive blessings from you.

C My feet walk in the path of sin.

P I wander astray and become a stranger to righteousness.

C Forgive me, and set me again on the path that leads to life.

P Deal with me not as I deserve, but according to your mercy.

C Not because I am worthy but because you are gracious. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C I shall follow where you guide!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Merciful and mighty Father, like Peter we can make great boasts, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” (Matthew 26:35) When we fail and fall, and get lost in guilt, restore to us the joy of our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 53:8-12

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

SECOND LESSON: James 2:8-13

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who

are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

SERMON

Pastor Heidi Punt

HYMN: *My Hope is Built*

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, his covenant, is blood support me in the raging flood
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in him be found
Clothed in his righteousness alone redeemed to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received. All loose offering will go towards the Franz Merrell Community Crisis Fund.

NICENE CREED

C 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

THE PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **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**

BLESSING

The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen**

HYMN: *Go, My Children*

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.**

SENDING

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to the high priest's courtyard, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C **Let us ever walk with Jesus!**

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Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) Setting 1I (page 77-97)

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Mid-Week Lenten Series *PLACES of the PASSION*

Lenten Services loose offering received will go towards the Franz Merrell Community Crisis Fund.

Two ways to be able to participate:

3:30 pm – Prayer Service (masks required)

6:30 pm – Worship (CDC guidelines followed)

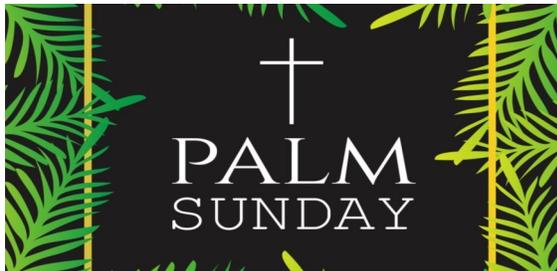
Mid-Week Lenten Suppers beginning on **Wednesdays, February 24-March 24, at 5:45 p.m.** in the Dutch Meeting Hall. If you wish to assist, please contact Tara Davis or Mike Cauble.

March 24 - Pilate's Judgment Hall Led by Pastor Heidi Punt

Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 5 of Lent, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation. In this service, we go to Pilate's Judgment Hall, where Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead. We are called to remember that the judgment that should have been placed on us was placed on him that we might be free.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:11-23

Topic: Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28

As Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday we are drawn into the dramatic turn of events of the last days of Jesus' life. On Sunday he is welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of joy and roaring "hosannas." By the end of the week he will be betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by Passover pilgrims and his closest friends. Things turn quickly from a parade to a death sentence which is carried out on a cross between two thieves.

Journey with us through Holy Week at Union Lutheran Church. We will begin with having palms available to place at the cross outside on Palm Sunday.

2021 CHURCH YEARBOOKS

Our 2021 Church Yearbooks is available in the Narthex. Please check off your name and pick up a yearbook.

Please bear in mind that this is a working directory and not an official roll of the congregation. We hope it is correct, but would be glad to know of any errors you may find so that we may make corrections. The only way we may know of any change in your address is that you or a member of your family keep us informed. Please do us this favor.

*A **CALLED MEETING** of the **CONGREGATION** will be held following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on **Sunday, March 28**. The purpose of the meeting will be reviewing and approving the 2021 Yearbook.*



**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1
3:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.**

Maundy Thursday recalls Jesus' last supper with his disciples where he institutes what the church knows as the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As a sign of his servant-love, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and gave them a new commandment, that they should love one another as he has loved them. We see ourselves in the disciples, who will abandon their Lord in various ways as Jesus makes his way to the cross.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This year beginning on Monday afternoon, March 29, we will have the opportunity to drive to each Station of the Cross for meditation and prayer. Every station resembles the journey Christ took from Gethesemane to Golgatha. This can be a moving experience for individuals and families. Please plan to prayerfully participate in this very personal walk with Jesus. A booklet will be available before the first station to guide you.



**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2
3:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.**

This holy day recalls the last hours of Jesus' life as the suffering servant is nailed to the cross, fulfilling his mission as the sacrificial Lamb of God. The sinless One takes on humanity's sin as he is betrayed by his closest companions, arrested and sentenced to a shameful death, even as Pontius Pilate finds no fault in him. We see ourselves in the angry crowd and lament our own denial of our Lord.



Following the evening Good Friday service, we will have a **PRAYER VIGIL**. A prayer vigil is a watchful, awake time set apart for the purpose of prayer. As an act of public witness, it offers the community a space to connect with God so that God's vision for love and justice can be carried out through us.

Union understands prayer vigils to be grounded in the power of the Holy Spirit to change people's hearts and minds and to strengthen us in our work and witness.

If you would like to participate please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

*Also, on Good Friday, our youth will have a **Lock-in** at 7:30 p.m. We invite the Congregation to sponsor a youth member (funds will go towards Youth Retreats/Trips).*

If you would like to participate by sponsoring the youth or can assist with the Lock-in, please sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex or contact Pastor Heidi. Thank you!