

Palm and Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

ACCLAMATION

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21: 1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Listen to the gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"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."

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

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" 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 THE PALMS

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

Let us pray.

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.**

PROCESSIONAL INVITATION

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

PROCESSIONAL ANTHEM

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ELW 344

We journey together as a people called into God's story, walking in the way of Jesus.

GREETING

God names us as beloved and draws us into community.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We tell the truth about our lives and hear again that grace comes first.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Lift High the Palms"

Joseph Martin

© 2016, 2023 Beracha Valley Press

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

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.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

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?

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalms 31: 9-16

We give voice to God's faithfulness, participating in the living story of God's mercy and love by echoing the ancient prayers of God's people.

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.

I have said, "You are my God.

My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love."

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 2: 5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us, O Lord"

ELW Setting 8, pg 189

S 189

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:14-27:66

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The Assembly may follow along in the pew bible, pages 26-29 in the New Testament.)

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Were You There"

ELW 353

We respond to the promises of God in song.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

ELW pg 104

We join the wider church in naming the story that holds us.

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

We entrust all into God's care.

After each prayer petition, please respond: **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great!**

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

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We offer signs of Christ's peace, joining God's work of reconciliation.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

From palms lifted high to the cross of sacrifice, we bring our gifts, our hearts, and our lives to God.
Even in sorrow, God's mercy and love surrounds us. With joy and faith, we give back to God.

OFFERING/ OFFERING MUSIC

"Broken For Me"

Colin & Janet Lunt

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

Chorus

Broken for me
Broken for you
The body of Jesus
Broken for you

Verse 1

He offered His body
He poured out His soul
Jesus was broken
That we might be whole
(Chorus)

Verse 2

Come to My table
And with Me dine
Eat of My bread
And drink of My wine
(Chorus)

Verse 3

This is My body
Given for you
Eat it rememb'ring
I died for you
(Chorus)

Verse 4

This is My blood
I shed for you
For your forgiveness
Making you new
(Chorus)

© 1978 Sovereign Music UK, CCLI# 39025

OFFERING PRAYER

**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's name.
Amen**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God's life-giving work.

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.**

PREFACE

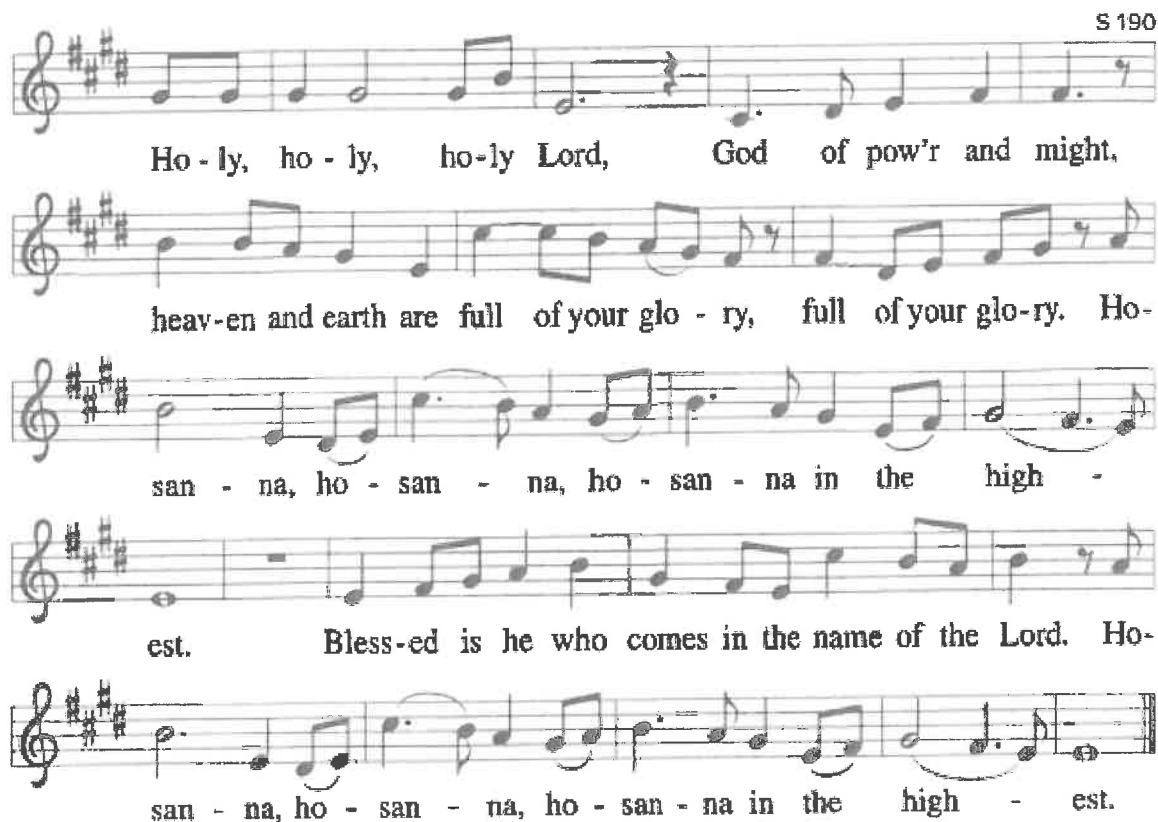
We remember God's faithfulness and join heaven and earth in praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 8, page 190

S 190



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We recall the story of Jesus and ask the Spirit to make us one.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Amazing Love”

Graham Kendrick

Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.

My Lord, what love is this
That pays so dearly
That I, the guilty one
May go free!

And so they watched him die
Despised, rejected
But oh, the blood he shed
Flowed for me!

Amazing love, O what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me
My debt he pays, and my death he dies
That I might live, that I might live
(Last time only) That I might live!

And now, this love of Christ
Shall flow like rivers
Come wash your guilt away
Live again!

© 1989 Make Way Music, CCLI# 192553

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ask for strength to live what we have received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We share news and opportunities to live God's love together as a community.

BLESSING

God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.

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.**

RECESSIONAL

“Jesus Messiah”

Tomlin, Carson, Cash, Reeves

With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world
(Chorus)

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Ending

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing
(Chorus)

© 2008 Rising Springs Music, CCLI# 5183443

SENDING

We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.

Siblings in Christ, our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**
Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Hosanna (Praise in Rising)

Brown & Baloché

As worship concludes, music strengthens and inspires us for the journey ahead.

© 2008 Rising Springs Music, CCLI# 5183443

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

<p><u>Sunday, March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday)</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: Ushers: Lector: <i>Beth Schuett</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Anne Lauterjung, Beth Schuett, Sue Williamson</i> Altar Guild: <i>Anne Lauterjung, Katrina Bromann</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>	<p><u>Thursday, April 2, 2026 (Maundy Thursday)</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: Ushers: Lector: <i>Beth Schuett</i> Communion Assistants: Altar Guild: <i>Beth Schuett, Sally Mathis</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>

● **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Feb Income = \$26,430.81 (Income YTD = \$46,261.88)
- Feb Expense = \$21,148.40 (Expense YTD = \$42,676.60)
- Income Less Expense = \$5,282.41 (Income Less Expense YTD = \$3,585.28)

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- **No Affirmation Classes will be held for the rest of March and no class on April 5th.** Classes will resume on April 12th.
- **Please stop by the Giving Tree** in the narthex and pick up a tag or two for Mission/Outreach's next project! **We are collecting items for Safe Journeys.** These items will be used by Safe Journeys for victims of domestic violence. Thank you so much for your generosity!
- **Easter Breakfast is Sunday, April 5th 8am.** The sign up sheet for donations is in the back by Java Junction. **Food is due April 1st.** Please mark the food "For Easter."
- Just a reminder that **payment for Easter Lily orders is due by March 30th.** The lilies will decorate the Altar on Easter Sunday.
- **The Alice Guenther Memorial Scholarship was established in 2023 to celebrate the life and legacy of Alice Guenther and her love of music.** Her interest in music led her to pursue a career in teaching music to others. She was a music teacher for the Ottawa Elementary Schools for 23 years. Alice was also the organist at Trinity for 40 years. She had a lifelong love of music in the church as she believed it enhances the worship services. The purpose of the scholarship is to award a student for their music involvement in church and/or school and help support the student(s) who demonstrates a love for music. To apply for the Alice Guenther Scholarship, you must be: an active member of Trinity, a high school Senior planning to further your education through college or trade school, and active in music at Trinity or active in music at your respective high school. **Applications must be completed by April 2nd. Scholarship will be awarded May 2nd.** Scholarship applications are available at the office or at the Information Kiosk in Java Junction.
- **Endowment Fund grant applications** are available in the church office and on Trinity's website (in the footer under 'Quick References'). They are also available in a red folder in the black bin under the 'Elevator' sign at the back of the sanctuary. Applications are **due no later than March 31st.**
- **The next blood drive is Wednesday, April 8, 2026.** Please contact Carol Wahlstrom to donate or to volunteer to help: carolwahlstrom@gmail.com.
- **The Swenson Scholarship is open to graduating High School seniors** going on to further their educations and who have remained active at Trinity throughout their elementary and high school years. Applications can be picked up at the church office Mon-Wed 9-2pm until April 30th. **The application deadline is May 1st.**
- **National Quilting Day, March 21st,** is celebrated by Lutheran World Relief, who for more than 80 years have given over 28 million quilts to people in need around the world and in the U.S. Our growing group of Trinity Stitchers made 78 quilts last year, 54 of them were sent to LWR. We are thankful for your donations of fabric. Funds are needed to buy batting, the inner layer of quilts. **Easter Breakfast will have a free will offering for the Trinity Stitchers account so that we can continue our mission.** Funds can also be directly given to this account. Thank you for your continued support.
- **The Annual Trinity Rummage Sale will be held Fri, May 1st, 2-4pm for set up & 4-7pm for the sale. Also Sat, May 2nd 9-4pm for the sale.** Clean up date TBD. We are now taking donations for this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carol Wahlstrom, carolwahlstrom@gmail.com. We will need help for set up, during the sale dates & for clean up.
Please feel free to **post the flyers** at your local supermarkets, coffee shops, and give to your neighbors and family. Additional flyers can be obtained from the office during business hours Mon, Tues, & Wed, 9-2pm.
- **Please join us on April 12th** to celebrate our students' **First Communion!** There will be a reception in Java Junction after Service.
- **Open Table UCC's Annual Plant Sale is online through April 30th.** Order early before plants sell out! Plants start at \$4.50. <https://pci.jotform.com/form/260608653154154>
- **Wednesday, April 1st is Culver's Night 5-8pm!** Come on out and help support our Rotary group (plus you can get ice cream!).

- Thrivent Action Teams are a simple and impactful way to support service projects, outreach efforts, or maintenance projects through our church. **If you are a member of Thrivent** (a financial services organization rooted in Christian values), you can apply for a grant two times a year - typically \$250 each time. These grants are designed to support community projects such as fundraisers, care packages, meal programs, or events that meet a church need such as maintenance projects.

Any Thrivent client with an eligible membership can apply, and the process is quick and easy through your Thrivent account online. If you need help setting up an account or applying for the grant Carol Wahlstrom carolwahlstrom@gmail.com or Jane Goetz goetz_jane@yahoo.com can help you. Once approved, you'll receive the funds along with helpful planning materials, if needed. If you've ever had an idea or want to help fund a project, this is a great opportunity. To learn more or to apply please visit Thrivent's website or contact Carol or Jane.

- **Please support Mission's 2026 Growing Project.** The funds raised will help people (mostly women) increase their food production in Guatemala's Western Highlands. There are information sheets in the pews that describe what's happening there and the help that will be provided.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to help. We're planning a number of activities to inform about the project and raise funds. All help is welcome! Last year's project raised almost \$29,000! Thank you for all of your support!

- **Friends of Marj Nelson** are invited to contact the office by email at tlcoffice@trinitylutheranottawa.com to obtain the link to her Caring Bridge page. This page will keep folks updated on her situation.
- **Prayer Request:**
 - Terry Feely (Hogue), Aunt of Cara Manning, has been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

- **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (3/30):**
 - 9a Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
 - 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 - 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
- **Tuesday (3/31):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (4/1)**
 - No Bible Study*
 - No Evening Prayer*
 - 5p Culver's Night (3001 Fairfield Ln Ottawa)
 - 6:30p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **Thursday (4/2):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 7p Holy Communion - Maundy Thursday
- **Friday (4/3):**
 - 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
 - 7p Evening Prayer Service - Good Friday
- **Saturday (4/4):**
 - Holy Saturday* †
- **Sunday (4/5)**
 - No Affirmation Class*
 - 8a Easter Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
 - 9a Sunday Session
 - 9a First Communion Class
 - 10a Holy Communion - Easter Sunday