



# Paw Creek

Presbyterian Church

Palm / Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

7400 Mount Holly Road  
Charlotte, NC 28214

PO Box 64  
Paw Creek, NC 28130

(704) 392-0329 • [pawcreekpc.org](http://pawcreekpc.org)

# Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

## Palm Sunday - The Sunday of the Passion

March 29, 2026

Eleven O'clock

### Joys & Concerns

Jan Chapman

### Welcome Into God's House (responsive)

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Congregation: **Hosanna in the highest!**

### Chimes of the Trinity

#### Prelude

"Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)"

Brown and Baloché

#### \*Processional with Palms

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Hymn 197

### Call to Worship (Psalm 31)

Praise the Lord, who has shown us the wonders of his unfailing love;  
and who, for the sake of his name, leads us and guides us.  
In you, O Lord, we put our trust. You are our God, and our lives are in your hands.  
Lord, let the light of your face shine on us as we celebrate together in your presence. Amen.

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Eternal God, In Jesus Christ, You entered Jerusalem to die for our sins. We confess we have not always hailed You as King. We think we are prosperous and need nothing. We refuse to admit our continued brokenness. Our enthusiasm and commitment to you fade. Yet You graciously stand at the door of our hearts and knock. You invite us to repent and have fellowship with You. Forgive us and open our hearts to Your mercy. Renew us and lead us to follow You as Lord. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Silent Confession)*

#### Assurance of Pardon

Response in Song:

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" (Hymn 423, vs. 1)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
create in me a clean heart, O God;  
create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

## Anthem

"Ride on King Jesus"

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
I was but young when I begun, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
But now my race is almost done, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
King Jesus rides on a milk white horse, no man can-a hin-duh me.  
The river of Jordan He did cross, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
If you want to find your way to God, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
The gospel highway must be trod, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me.  
Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hin-duh me.

## Scripture Reading

**Philippians 2: 5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Hymn 196

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

## Sermon

*Week 6, Walking with Jesus*

### ***The Passion and Death of Jesus***

**St. Matthew 26:14 - 27:66**

#### ***Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus***

26:14 Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

#### ***The Passover with the Disciples***

<sup>17</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup>He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" <sup>19</sup>So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, <sup>21</sup>and while they were eating he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup>And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup>He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." <sup>25</sup>Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

#### ***The Institution of the Lord's Supper***

<sup>26</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

<sup>30</sup>When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### ***Peter's Denial Foretold***

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

<sup>32</sup>"But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup>Peter said to him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." <sup>35</sup>Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

### ***Jesus Prays in Gethsemane***

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup>He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." <sup>39</sup>And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want." <sup>40</sup>Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup>Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup>Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup>Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup>Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

### ***The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus***

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup>At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup>Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup>Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" <sup>55</sup>At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup>But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

### ***Jesus before the High Priest***

<sup>57</sup>Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup>But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup>but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup>and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup>The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" <sup>63</sup>But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." <sup>64</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup>Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup>What do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death." <sup>67</sup>Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, <sup>68</sup>saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

### ***Peter's Denial of Jesus***

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." <sup>71</sup>When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of the Nazarene." <sup>72</sup>Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." <sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup>Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

### ***Jesus Brought before Pilate***

<sup>27:1</sup>When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup>They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

### ***The Suicide of Judas***

<sup>3</sup>When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup>He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." <sup>5</sup>Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup>But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." <sup>7</sup>After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. <sup>8</sup>For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, <sup>10</sup>and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

### ***Pilate Questions Jesus***

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

### ***Barabbas or Jesus?***

<sup>15</sup>Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup>While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup>Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

### ***Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified***

<sup>24</sup>So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup>Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup>So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

### ***The Soldiers Mock Jesus***

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup>They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

### ***The Crucifixion of Jesus***

<sup>32</sup>As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup>they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup>then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup>Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

<sup>38</sup>Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup>"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup>The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

### ***The Death of Jesus***

<sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup>And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup>At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup>Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup>After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

<sup>55</sup>Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. <sup>56</sup>Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

### ***The Burial of Jesus***

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

### ***The Guard at the Tomb***

<sup>62</sup>The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup>and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup>Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." <sup>66</sup>So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### **\*Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day  
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the  
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Giving of Tithes and Offerings

### Offertory

“When Jesus Wept”

arr. Peter Paul Olejar

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;  
when Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.  
When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;  
when Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.  
When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;  
when Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized the guilty world around.  
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear; when Jesus groaned,  
a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around

### \*Doxology

“Old Hundredth” (Hymn 606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.

### Offertory Response

Leader: Blessed are you, God of all creation.  
Congregation: **Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.**  
Leader: Accept and use our offerings for your glory.  
Congregation: **And for the service of your kingdom.**  
All: **Amen.**

### Pastoral Prayer (concluding with The Lord’s Prayer, in unison)

### \*Hymn 220

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

### \*Blessing and Charge for Palm Sunday (responsive)

Leader: God Most High, gracious and glorious, blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
Congregation: **Lead us now on the road to the cross. May we follow with faithfulness and joy, shouting hosanna in the highest heaven; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.**  
Leader: Blessed are you, Holy God, for in Jesus Christ you came to rule in our lives, not as a king, but as a humble servant, rising on a donkey.  
Congregation: **Enter into our hearts this day with your glory, that we may greet you with shouts of praise; through Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. Amen.**

### Postlude

“Lead Me to Calvary”

arr. Dan Forrest

\*Those who are able, please stand

† Liturgist: Larry Ramsey

Welcome to Paw Creek Presbyterian Church!

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), two centuries young and committed to living out the Gospel today as we Seek, Serve, Praise and Love Christ. If you are a visitor today, we are especially glad that you are here. We hope that you will leave us a record of your visit by completing a visitor card and placing it in the offering plate. Feel free to contact Rev. Fred Grosse with questions or prayer concerns at 704-607-2847. Please come again soon.

**Worshipping On-Line**

Our worship service is also streamed live each week, and is available to watch later in the week as well. For Facebook and YouTube links, please visit pawcreekpc.org. When you worship with us from home, you can use an on-line version of our Glory to God hymnal so that you can sing along or follow the words to the hymns. For phone or tablet, search "Glory to God" in your app store. For computer, go to hymnary.org/hymnal/GG2013 and click on the hymn number. Most hymns are available, although there are a few that cannot be displayed due to copyright restriction.

**Paw Creek Presbyterian Church Staff:**

Transitional Minister ..... Rev. Dr. Fred Grosse  
Clerk of Session ..... Karen Cathey  
Music Director ..... Andrew Cumbow  
Pianist ..... Mark Burleson  
Office Manager ..... Kim Whittington  
Videography Coordinator ..... Clint Shaw

**Upcoming Sermon Titles & Scriptures**

**Thursday, April 2**

***Maundy Thursday - 7pm - Scout Hut***—Table Service of Communion and Candlelight

**Friday, April 3**

***Good Friday – 12pm (30 min. Service) & 7pm - Sanctuary***— Service of Shadows

**Sunday, April 5**

***Easter Sunday - 11am – Sanctuary – Sacrament of Holy Communion***

Jeremiah 31:1-6; St. John 20:1-18 *"Don't Give Up, Add On"*

**Congregational Gathering**

The Mission Study Committee invites you to attend a Congregational Gathering to share your insights and opinions on our church's future ministry and mission, and your thoughts on the gifts and talents we seek in a new spiritual leader for our congregation.

**Sunday, March 29, 12:00 PM**

Please attend this meeting so we can hear your input on these important issues. We will meet in the sanctuary.

**Church Office Closed**

The Church Office will be closed on **Thursday, April 2** for Easter.

**Happy Hearts**

Happy Hearts next adventure is visiting Sullenberger Aviation Museum **Thursday, April 16th**.

Cost is \$20 for the tour. We will stop for lunch afterwards.

Meet at the church at 9:55, we will depart at 10:00.

RSVP to Vicki Ramsey (704)281-2836 by Monday, April 13th along with payment.

**Easter Flowers**

Paw Creek will be decorating the Sanctuary with flowers on Easter Sunday, **April 5**.

Donations will be accepted in memory or in honor of loved ones, and their name will be included in the Bulletin for Easter as well. **Names must be received in the church office by Tuesday, March 31.**

Any monies collected will be used to offset the cost of the Easter flowers with any extra money raised going to the Chuck Overbeck Fund and used for the beautification and maintenance of the gardens and landscaping around the church.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 704-392-0329. Thank you!

**Renovatus Church**

Renovatus will be offering up some of their "supplies" to Renovatus and Paw Creek congregants during a **FREE SALE** on **April 12th** in the CFC from 11am – 1pm.

This could include a bit of decor, office supplies, and other miscellaneous items.

Please feel free to stop by to visit.