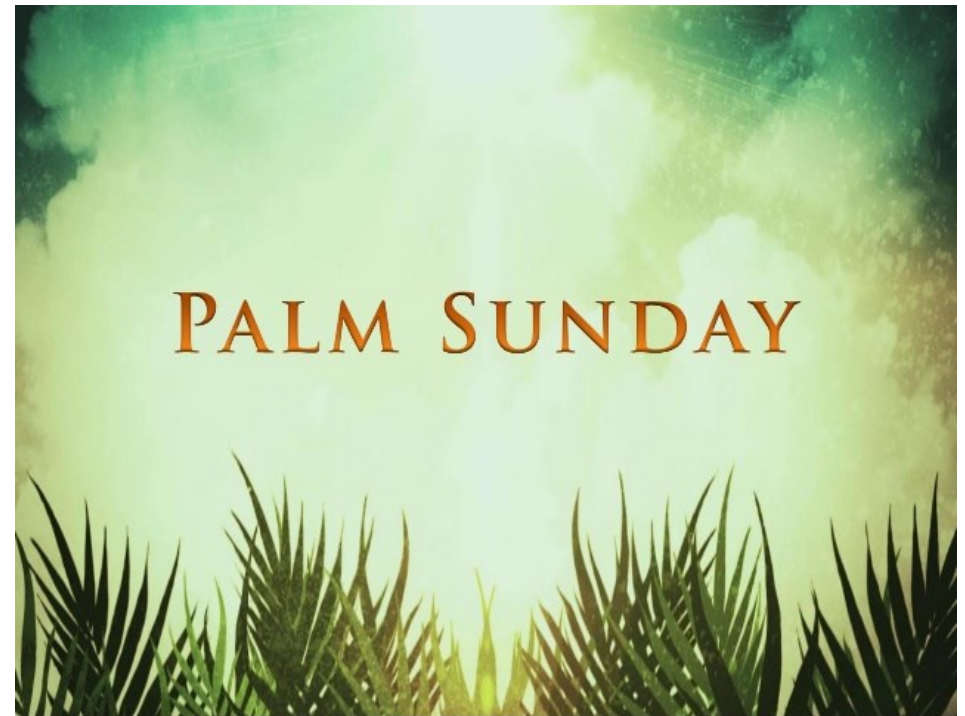


THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Activity	Location
Sunday 3/24/2024 Palm Sunday	
9:30 a.m. Faith Formation	Family Life Center
10:30 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary & Online
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Monday 3/25/2024	
12:00 p.m. Quilt Group	Quilt Room
5:45 p.m. Chair Yoga	Upper Room
6:00 p.m. Overeater's Anonymous	Gallery
7:00 p.m. Cardio Drumming Class	Family Life Center
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
7:15 p.m. Gentle Soul Yoga	Upper Room
Tuesday 3/26/2024 Bulletin Deadline	
9:00 a.m. SHOP Group	Gallery
9:00 a.m. Pickleball	Family Life Center
3:00 p.m. Burnished Brass Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Band	Music Room
9:00 p.m. Compline	Facebook
Wednesday 3/27/2024	
9:00 a.m. Pickleball	Family Life Center
12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	Gallery
Thursday 3/28/2024 Maundy Thursday	
12:00 p.m. Bible Study	Gallery and Zoom
6:00 p.m. Private Group Meeting	Gallery
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship	Comm. United Methodist
7:00 p.m. Cardio Drum Class	Family Life Center
Friday 3/29/2024 Good Friday	
12:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Baton Class	Family Life Center
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Saturday 3/30/2024	

The eternal candle was given in honor of Jordis Hutchins' 90th birthday by her family.



Thursday, March 21, 2024
6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 24, 2024
10:30 a.m.

WELCOME

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH – Muskegon, Michigan

WELCOME

Welcome to this time of worship. We are especially grateful for those of you who are visitors. You make us more whole. First Lutheran is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a church body committed to the welcome of the stranger and to the questions and doubts of all seekers.

Holy Week Schedule

March 28
7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
Community Methodist

March 29
12:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
In-Person and On-Line
In-Person and On-Line

March 31
7:30 a.m.

Easter
Sunrise Worship Service
In-Person and On-Line
Easter Breakfast
Easter Village
Worship Service
In-Person and On-Line

8:45 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

The flowers on the altar were given by John and Annette Jack in memory of their son, Chuck.

Announcements

There will **not be a Wednesday night dinner on March 27** due to it being Holy Week.

Join us as we discover more about our **Muslim friends** who meet at the **mosque “Masjid Tawheed”** in Grand Rapids on Saturday, April 13. The bus will leave at 9:15 a.m. The experience will conclude with lunch at the Pita House in G.R.

Our week for **Stony Lake Camp** is planned for July 7 to July 12. Grades 1st through 12th are welcome. **Registration is open.** You can register at: <https://www.elcalivingwater.com/campprograms>. If you have any questions, email Emma Johnston at emma@firstlutheranmuskegon.org or call 712-395-0502.

Our **Maundy Thursday** (March 28) **worship** will take place at Community United Methodist Church at 1614 Ruddiman Drive.

M.S. and H.S. youth are needed to **help with Easter breakfast** on Easter morning, anytime between 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Contact Laura Lucht.

Don't miss the **Women's Retreat** that is planned for Friday, May 17 to Saturday, May 18 at Grace Adventure Camp in Mears, MI. The cost is \$79. For more information, see Paula or email her at paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org.

Note that our **early service** on **Easter** morning will begin at **7:30 a.m.**

Holy Hilarity will be celebrated on April 11 and April 14. You are encouraged to come **dressed in clothing** from your **favorite decade.**

We now have a Paper Gator! It is located on the back side of our parking lot and is meant for everyone to use. Here are the accepted materials for the gator: office paper, newspaper, junk mail, hard and soft cover books, magazines, paperboard (cereal type boxes), cardboard that is 12" x 12" or smaller, and wrapping paper (no foil or sparkles).

THOSE WHO SERVE 3/24

Servers Sun.10:30 a.m.	Deb & Ed Wosinski
Acolytes Sun.10:30 a.m.	Megan Badley
Ushers Sun.10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Nolan, Phil Sielski Tara Plekes
Junior Church	No junior church
Song Leaders	Mary Schoonover, Emily Traub
Sound System	Jeff Thomas
Information Stations	Gary Hansen, Carol Parker
Counters	Diane Kroll, Jenny Lindell
Communion Bread	Lisa Le
Communion Set-Up	Lisa Le
Clean-Up Sun.10:30 a.m.	Lisa Le
Coffee Hour Hosts	Dibbles and Webbers
Bus Driver	Jeff Thomas
Dancer	Patti Winsemius

THOSE WHO SERVE 3/31

Assisting Minister	Paula Dusseljee
Lector Sun 7:30 a.m.	Shar Bourdon
Lector Sun 10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Gouine
Server Sun 7:30 a.m.	Diane Madej, Lori Archer
Servers Sun.10:30 a.m.	Amy Werling, Diane Kroll
Acolytes Sun 7:30 a.m.	Taela Plekes, Elizabeth Lucht
Acolytes Sun.10:30 a.m.	Matthew Besteman, Liam Simons
Ushers Sun 7:30 a.m.	Tara Plekes, Mark Thogerson Ed Wosinski
Ushers Sun.10:30 a.m.	Donn & Ben Werling Stan Daszko
Junior Church	Emma Johnston
Song Leaders Sun 7:30 a.m.	Mark Thogerson
Song Leaders Sun 10:30 a.m.	Eva Backus, Joel Westerholm
Sound System Sun 7:30 a.m.	Karl Ziemelis
Sound System	Mark Besteman
Information Stations Sun 10:30 a.m.	Jean Boxer, Lisa Le
Counters	Diane Kroll, Diana Duell
Communion Bread Sun 7:30 a.m.	Open
Communion Bread Sun 10:30 a.m.	Jean Boxer
Communion Set-Up Sun 7:30 a.m.	Open
Communion Set-Up Sun 10:30 a.m.	Jean Boxer
Clean-Up Sun 7:30 a.m.	Open
Clean-Up Sun.10:30 a.m.	Jean Boxer
Coffee Hour Hosts	Easter
Bus Driver	Mike Sweet

PALM SUNDAY

THE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

NARRATOR: When he got near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says anything or asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'His Master needs him.'"

NARRATOR: The two left and found it just as he said...

PEOPLE: As they were untying the colt, its owners said, "What are you doing untying the colt?"

PETER: They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on.

NARRATOR: As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street. Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise preparing the way of the Lord

ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

Hosanna!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hosanna!'. It is written in 2/2 time and features two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 2/2 time signature. It starts with a rest for two measures, followed by a first ending bracket. The melody is marked with a forte 'f' dynamic and includes the instruction '(both times)'. The lyrics under the first staff are 'Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the—'. The second staff begins with a measure rest, followed by a first ending bracket. It includes a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.) marked with a forte 'f' dynamic. The lyrics under the second staff are 'high - est! Ho - high - est!'. The score concludes with a double bar line.

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PHARISEE: Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, get your disciples under control!"

NARRATOR: But he said, "If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise."

Congregation: “Hosanna, Come and Deliver” (Insert)

NARRATOR: When the city came into view, he wept over it. “If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But now it’s too late. In the days ahead your enemies are going to bring up their heavy artillery and surround you, pressing in from every side. They’ll smash you and your babies on the pavement. Not one stone will be left intact. All this because you didn’t recognize and welcome God’s personal visit.”

CHILDREN:

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killer of prophets,
Abuser of the messengers of God.
How often God has longed to gather you and your
children like a hen gathers her chickens.
But you refused and turned away.
You adults turned away.
You were blinded by his reign,
so we children must be the ones to sing:*

*“Hosanna to the Son of David. Hosanna to the king, to the king,
to the king!” Maybe we children have something to teach you
after all.*

THE PREPARATION AND THE EATING OF THE LAST SUPPER

NARRATOR: The Feast of Unleavened Bread, also called Passover, drew near. The high priests and religion scholars were looking for a way to do away with Jesus but, fearful of the people, they were also looking for a way to cover their tracks.

JUDAS: That’s when Satan entered Judas, the one called Iscariot. He was one of the Twelve. Leaving the others, he conferred with the high priests and the Temple guards about how he might betray Jesus to them. They couldn’t believe their good luck and agreed to pay him well. He gave them his word and started looking for a way to betray Jesus, but out of sight of the crowd.

NARRATOR: The Day of Unleavened Bread came, the day the Passover lamb was butchered. Jesus sent Peter and John off, saying, “Go prepare the Passover for us so we can eat it together.”

PEOPLE: They said, “Where do you want us to do this?”

NARRATOR: By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a total blackout. The temple curtains split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, “Father, I place my life in your hands!” Then he breathed his last. All who had come around as spectators to watch the show,

PEOPLE: When they saw what actually happened, they were overcome with grief and headed home.

ALL WOMEN: THOSE WHO KNEW JESUS WELL, ALONG WITH THE WOMEN WHO HAD FOLLOWED HIM FROM GALILEE, STOOD AT A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE AND KEPT VIGIL

LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON: BURIAL

SOLO: *Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble -
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

PILATE: There was a man by the name of Joseph, a member of the Jewish High Council, a man of good heart and good character. He had not gone along with the plans and actions of the council. His hometown was the Jewish village of Arimathea. He lived in alert expectation of the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Taking him down, he wrapped him in a linen shroud and placed him in a tomb chiseled into the rock, a tomb never yet used.

NARRATOR: It was the day before Sabbath, the Sabbath just about to begin.

ALL WOMEN: THE WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN COMPANIONS OF JESUS FROM GALILEE FOLLOWED ALONG. THEY SAW THE TOMB WHERE JESUS’ BODY WAS PLACED. THEN THEY WENT BACK TO PREPARE BURIAL SPICES AND PERFUMES.

NARRATOR: They rested quietly on the Sabbath, as commanded.

CHOIR “Song at the Empty Tomb”

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Today’s service is inspired by Walt Wangerin’s “The Cry of the Congregation.” The Bible text comes from The Message Bible by Eugene Petersen.

ALL MEN: DIVIDING UP HIS CLOTHES, THEY THREW DICE FOR THEM.

ALL WOMEN: FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

ALL MEN: THE PEOPLE STOOD THERE STARING AT JESUS, AND THE RINGLEADERS MADE FACES, TAUNTING, "HE SAVED OTHERS. LET'S SEE HIM SAVE HIMSELF! THE MESSIAH OF GOD--HA! THE CHOSEN--HA!"

ALL WOMEN: FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

ALL MEN: THE SOLDIERS ALSO CAME UP AND POKED FUN AT HIM, MAKING A GAME OF IT. THEY TOASTED HIM WITH SOUR WINE: "SO YOU'RE KING OF THE JEWS! SAVE YOURSELF!"

ALL WOMEN: PRINTED OVER HIM WAS A SIGN: 'THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS'

ALL MEN: FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES. FORGIVE US, O LORD, OUR TRESPASSES!

JUDAS: One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him, "Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!"

PETER: But the other one made him be quiet: "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him; he did nothing to deserve this." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom."

PEOPLE: Forgive us our trespasses, forgive us, O Lord, our trespasses!

NARRATOR: And Jesus said to him -

PEOPLE: and the power -

NARRATOR: "Don't worry, I will-

PEOPLE: and the glory -

NARRATOR: Today you will join me in Paradise."

PEOPLE: Forever and ever. AMEN!

SOLO: *Were you there when he cried out at the end?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble – Were you there
when he cried out at the end?*

NARRATOR: He said, "Keep your eyes open as you enter the city. A man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him home. Then speak with the owner of the house, "The Teacher wants to know, 'Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will show you a spacious second-story room swept and ready. Prepare the meal there." They left, found everything just as he told them, and prepared the Passover meal.

NARRATOR: When it was time he sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, "You've no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It's the last one I'll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God." Taking the cup, he blessed it, then said, "Take this and pass it among you. As for me, I'll not drink wine again until the kingdom of God arrives.' Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory." He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant, written in my blood, blood poured out for you."

CHOIR

"REMEMBER"

COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERING

NARRATOR: "Do you realize that the hand of the one who is betraying me is at this moment on this table? It's true that the Son of Man is going down a path already marked out—no surprises there. But for the one who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man, this is doomsday."

PEOPLE: They immediately became suspicious of each other and began quizzing one another, wondering who might be about to do this.

NARRATOR: He said, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. Oh, it would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

JUDAS: Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him, "You have said so."

PETER: Peter said, "Master, I'm ready for anything with you. I'd go to jail for you; I'd *die* for you."

NARRATOR: Jesus said, 'I'm sorry to have to tell you this, Peter, but before the rooster crows you will have three times denied that you know me.'

PETER: Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you!"

PEOPLE: And so said all of the disciples, over and over again.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

PEOPLE:

**Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflicts see,
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from His griefs away,
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

PEOPLE: "Stay With Me"

Musical notation for the song "Stay With Me". The first line of music is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and" are written below the first line. The second line of music continues the melody with lyrics "pray. Watch and pray." written below it.

NARRATOR: Leaving there, he went, as he so often did, to Mount Olives. The disciples followed him. When they arrived at the place, he said, "Pray that you don't give in to temptation."

PEOPLE: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us, deliver us.

NARRATOR: He pulled away from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father remove this cup from me. But please, not what I want. What do *you* want?"

**there, adoring at His feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

NARRATOR: And Jesus he gave them to do whatever they wanted.

ALL MEN: AS THEY LED HIM OFF, THEY MADE SIMON, A MAN FROM CYRENE WHO HAPPENED TO BE COMING IN FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE, CARRY THE CROSS BEHIND JESUS. A HUGE CROWD OF PEOPLE FOLLOWED,

ALL WOMEN: ALONG WITH WOMEN WEEPING AND CARRYING ON.

NARRATOR: At one point Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children. The time is coming when they'll say, 'Lucky the women who never conceived! Lucky the wombs that never gave birth! Lucky the breasts that never gave milk!' Then they'll start calling to the mountains, 'Fall down on us!' calling to the hills, 'Cover us up!' If people do these things to a live, green tree, can you image what they'll do with deadwood?"

SOLO: Mary Schoonover
*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble -
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

NARRATOR: Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution. When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

SOLO: *Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble -
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

NARRATOR: Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing."

ALL WOMEN: FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

him. He hoped to see him do something spectacular. He peppered him with questions. Jesus didn't answer, not one word. But the high priests and religion scholars were right there, saying their piece, strident and shrill in their accusations. Mightily offended, Herod turned on Jesus. His soldiers joined in, taunting and jeering. Then they dressed him up in an elaborate king costume and sent him back to Pilate.

PILATE: Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and others and said, "You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health. It's clear that he's done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

PEOPLE: At that, the crowd went wild: "Kill him! Give us Barabbas!"

NARRATOR: Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder.

PILATE: Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go, and so spoke out again.

PEOPLE: But they kept shouting back, "CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!"

PILATE: He tried a third time. "But for what crime? I've found nothing in him deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

PEOPLE: But they kept at it, a shouting mob, demanding that he be crucified.

NARRATOR: And finally they shouted him down.

PILATE: Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.

FRIDAY MORNING: CRUCIFIXION

PEOPLE:
Calvary's mournful mountain climb;

PEOPLE: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done. Thy will be done. Thy will be done.

NARRATOR: He got up from prayer, went back to the disciples and found them asleep, drugged by grief. He said, "What business do you have sleeping? Get up. Pray so you won't give in to temptation."

PEOPLE: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, even the evil within ourselves.

JUDAS: No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a crowd showed up, Judas, the one from the Twelve, in the lead. He came right up to Jesus to kiss him

NARRATOR: Jesus said, "Judas, you would betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

JUDAS: Judas said, "Hail, Master."

PEOPLE: When those with him saw what was happening, they said, "Master, shall we fight?"

PETER: One of them took a swing at the Chief Priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

NARRATOR: Jesus said, "Let them be. Even in this." Then, touching the servant's ear, he healed him.

PEOPLE: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

NARRATOR: Jesus spoke to those who had come - high priests, temple police, religious leaders: "What is this, jumping me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day I've been with you in the Temple and you've not so much as lifted a hand against me. But do it your way - it's a dark night, a dark hour. Then they arrested him -

THE JUDGMENT

PEOPLE:
Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;

**Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame or loss;
Learn from him to bear the cross.**

NARRATOR: Then they arrested him and they marched him off and took him into the house of the Chief Priest.

PETER: Peter followed, but at a safe distance. In the middle of the courtyard some people had started a fire and were sitting around it, trying to keep warm.

PEOPLE: One of the serving maids sitting at the fire noticed him, then took a second look and said, “This man was with him!”

PETER: He denied it, “Woman, I don’t even know him.”

PEOPLE: A short time later, someone else noticed him and said, “You’re one of them.”

PETER: But Peter denied it: “Man, I am not.”

PEOPLE: About an hour later, someone else spoke up, really adamant: “he’s got to have been with him! He’s got ‘Galilean’ written all over him.”

PETER: Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

NARRATOR: At that very moment, the last word hardly off his lips, a rooster crowed. Just then, the Master turned and looked at Peter.

PETER: Peter remembered what the Master had said to him: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” He went out and cried and cried and cried.

NARRATOR: The men in charge of Jesus began poking fun at him, slapping him around. They put a blindfold on him and taunted,

PEOPLE: “Who hit you that time?”

NARRATOR: They were having a grand time with him. When it was morning, the religious leaders of the people and the high

priests and scholars all got together and brought him before their High Council.

PEOPLE: They said, “Are you the Messiah?”

NARRATOR: He answered, “If I said yes, you wouldn’t believe me. If I asked what you meant by your question, you wouldn’t answer me. So here’s what I have to say: From here on the Son of Man takes his place at God’s right hand, the place of power--”

PEOPLE: They said, “So you admit your claim to be the Son of God.”

NARRATOR: “You’re the ones who keep saying it,” he said.

PEOPLE: But they had made up their minds, “Why do we need any more evidence? We’ve all heard him as good as say it himself.”

DAWN FRIDAY: JESUS BEFORE PILATE

NARRATOR: Then they all took Jesus to Pilate and began to bring up charges against him.

PEOPLE: They said, “We found this man undermining our law and order, forbidding taxes to be paid to Caesar, setting himself up as Messiah-King.”

PILATE: Pilate asked him, “Is this true that you’re ‘King of the Jews’?”

NARRATOR: “Those are your words, not mine,” Jesus replied.

PILATE: Pilate told the high priests and the accompanying crowd, “I find nothing wrong here. He seems harmless enough to me.”

PEOPLE: But they were vehement. “He’s stirring up unrest among the people with his teaching, disturbing the peace everywhere, starting in Galilee and now all through Judea. He’s a dangerous man, endangering the peace.”

PILATE: When Pilate heard that, he asked, “So, he’s a Galilean?” Realizing that he properly came under Herod’s jurisdiction, he passed the buck to Herod, who just happened to be in Jerusalem for a few days.

NARRATOR: Herod was delighted when Jesus showed up. He had wanted for a long time to see him. He’d heard so much about