

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 2026



Wellspring in the Wilderness

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Bold text or music score indicates congregational response.

Prayer request cards may be placed in the offering and will be added to our prayer list.

As you enter the sanctuary quietly, we invite you to prepare your hearts for worship.

Please silence all devices and be present with us.

If you need to step out, the service is live-streamed in the Chapel.

PRELUDE

The Royal Banners Forward Go (Vexilla Regis)
by Wilbur Held

Dr. Julia Brown

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson & Rev. Kent Dobson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

INTROIT

Ingrediente Domino
by George Malcolm

Chancel Choir

When the Lord Jesus entered the holy city, all the Hebrew children were declaring the resurrection of life, with branches and palm leaves, crying Hosanna in the highest.

When all the people heard the cry that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, they went forth to meet him with branches of palms, crying "Hosanna in the highest."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Weaver

Leader: On this Palm Sunday, we welcome Jesus with hearts full of praise as he enters Jerusalem humbly and riding on a donkey; a symbol of peace, justice, and God's steadfast love.

People: We lift our voices and our lives in thanksgiving to God, for God came to us in Jesus to bring us love and hope, and to show us the way of mercy and grace.

Leader: As we remember Jesus' triumphal entry, let us also remember his call to follow him in love, to walk in the way of peace, and to live in service to one another.

People: Let us open our hearts to the presence of Christ; indeed to the one who teaches us to trust God and to love wastefully.

Leader: Let us worship God together, whose love is revealed in Jesus, offering grace to all.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 187 (stand as you are able) *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

OPENING PRAYER

Lisa Weaver

Gracious God, as a loving presence you come to us and welcome us as we are, how we are, and wherever we may be. Thank you for your steadfast love and your unfailing grace. May your love and tenderness touch us, and your acceptance and care hold us, as we journey through Holy Week. Be amongst us as we worship together this morning. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (remain standing)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ANTHEM

Hosanna

Children's and Chancel Choirs

by Christian Gregor (1783)

Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachael Cooley

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11

Rev. Dobson

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 697

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Who Is This?

Rev. Bell Olsson



1. We sang our glad ho - san - nas and waved our branch-es high, but
 2. We heard an an - gry Je - sus in Tem - ple courts de - clare, "Be
 3. We served him at the ta - ble with wine, un - leav-ened bread. "The
 4. We saw a suf-fering Je - sus a - lone, with - out a friend, and



some were si - lent, frown - ing, as Je - sus rode on by. They
 gone, you mon - ey chang - ers! This is a house of prayer." Though
 one who will be - tray me now eats with me," he said. His
 heard the voic - es shout - ing a - buse un - til the end. We



sought a roy - al Sav - ior, but did not un - der - stand a
 man - y came for heal - ing and stayed to hear his word, still
 friends would not be - lieve him, but one by one that night, as
 wept as we stood watch - ing Love's light grow dim and die, and



king could rule by lov - ing in - stead of by com - mand.
 oth - ers, hos - tile, plot - ted and thus his death as - sured.
 sol - diers came to take him, they scur - ried out of sight.
 cried, "Why did this hap - pen? God, tell us, tell us why."

Words and music: John D. Horman and Mary Nelson Keithahn © 1998 Abingdon Press, used by permission One License #729334-A

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Were You There
 by Bob Chilcott

Chancel Choir

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Sometimes it causes me to tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

DOXOLOGY (stand as you are able)

**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.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Bell Olsson & Rev. Dobson

LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN 183 (stand as you are able) *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bell Olsson

POSTLUDE

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Dr. Brown

by Johannes Brahms

Please join us for coffee and cookies in the Atrium after the service.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you would like to provide cookies for the Sunday reception,
please email Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org

BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT EMAILS

On Tue, 24 Mar 2026 at 13:10 Ruth Bell Olsson

<ruth.mayflowerchurch@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning **name**, do you have a minute?
I'll be going into a meeting now and I may not be able to
talk, so just reply.

**NOT a legitimate Mayflower
Church email address**

Pastor Ruth

From: Ruth Bell Olsson <ruth.mayflowerchurch@gmail.com>

Date: March 25, 2026 at 4:30:11 AM PST

To: @gmail.com

Subject: Re: Task(URGENT)

Ok. I'll be in between meetings today and won't be by my phone much. I need you to get me some gift cards, I promised to help some people and it totally slipped my mind that it's time already.

Let me know if it is possible for you to get them so I can tell you which product we would need and the amount, you will be reimbursed.

Some of you have received fraudulent emails from a sender email address made to look like Pastor Ruth's or another staff person's. Please note that Mayflower does not solicit donations via email. If you have a question about whether or not correspondence you have received is legitimate, please reach out to the church office (616-459-6255).

Church staff emails are from the "[mayflowerchurch.org](https://www.mayflowerchurch.org)" domain and a response should be addressed to the [mayflowerchurch.org](https://www.mayflowerchurch.org) email address. However, these email addresses can also be hacked, so if you are ever unsure, call the office.

Weekly Calendar

**Words in italics denote partnering organizations that meet at Mayflower.*

Today, March 29

10:30am | Palm Sunday

5pm | Elevate

THIS WEEK

30 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
Men's Bible Study | 5pm

31 Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Men's Bible Study | 8am
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
*Cub Scouts** | 6pm

1 Priscilla Circle | 11am
Mayflower Bells | 6:30pm
*Al-Anon** | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30pm

2 *Women's City Club** | 11am
Women's Bible Study | 10am
Maundy Thursday Dinner | 6pm
*Boy Scouts** | 6:30pm

3 Men's Bible Study | 7am
Good Friday Service | 6pm

5 Easter Sunday | 10:30am

LOOKING AHEAD...

College Exam Care Package Snacks/Assembly April 14 | 10am



Do you have a college student? Come and join other parents of college students as we assemble Final Exam Care Packages filled with snacks and fun. Bring a box and an item from the sign up (scan QR code).

Senior Sunday | April 19 | 10:30am

We will be honoring our High School Seniors during the Sunday service on April 19. If you have a graduating senior, please reach out to the church office (616-459-625) so that we can have them be a part of this special milestone.

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

APRIL 2 | MAUNDY THURSDAY | 6PM

ALL are invited as we engage in the narrative of Jesus' last supper with His disciples before His journey to the cross. **Bring your family, kids are welcome!** We'll share a meal, hear scripture, and share communion. Please RSVP so we know how much food to plan. To RSVP, scan the QR code or call the office (616-459-6255).



APRIL 3 | GOOD FRIDAY | 6PM

Journey to the Cross – a worship service of music and readings. You won't want to miss this service with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys, Mayflower's Chancel Choir, and instrumentalists from the Grand Rapids Symphony.

APRIL 5 | EASTER | 10:30AM WORSHIP

Join us in worship as we acknowledge that love wins even in the wilderness as we worship and hear a message filled

with the joy of the resurrection. Come sing the Hallelujah Chorus and bring flowers to adorn our wooden cross.



Mayflower ART CAMP!



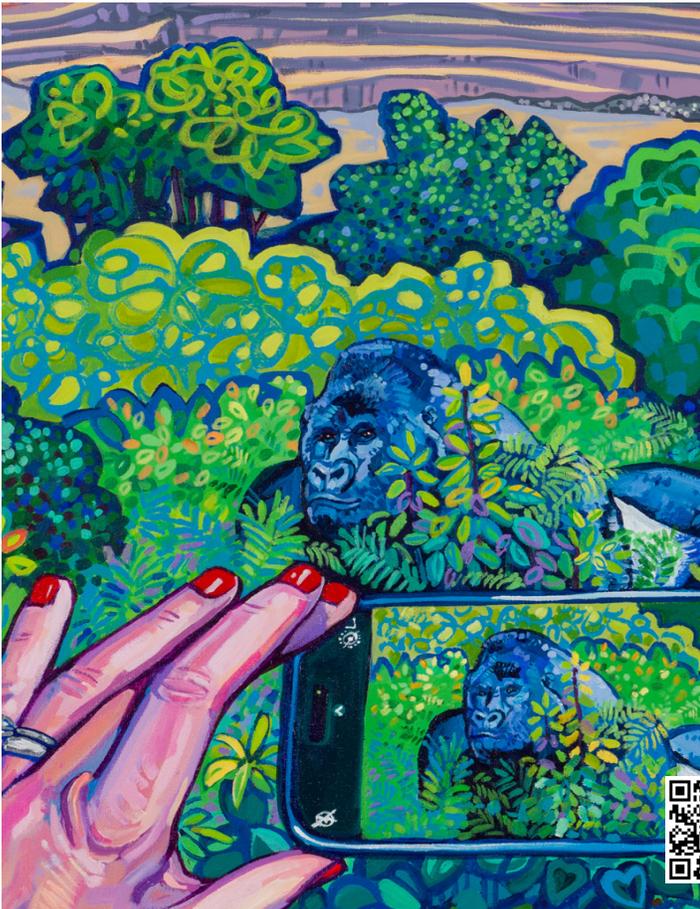
This year we welcome artist, **Joel Schoon-Tanis**, to Art Camp! Joel's artwork will be on display at church throughout the week and he will open each day of camp with instruction and a demonstration on the creative process, visual literacy, and faith and art.

JUNE 8-11 | 9am-12pm
REGISTRATION OPEN-\$100/child

Rising Kindergarteners-5th grade



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER TODAY



SUNDAY, April 19
following worship

Spring Bake Sale

HOSTED BY PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Everyone is invited to make and bake your best recipes! Please bring your donated baked goods to the Atrium prior to the Sunday service on 4/19.

Praises and Prayers

If you would like to receive prayer, or make note of someone to be added to the weekly Prayer List, please contact the church office to be included on the list (616.459.6255 or office@mayflowerchurch.org.) Prayer Cards are also in the pews and collected during Sunday morning services.

PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE

We celebrate with our 29 **new members** (and their 16 children!) in joining Mayflower Church on March 15.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Susan Ellis is recovering from a fall and would appreciate prayers for her recovery. (3/23)

Please pray for **Gary Wallin**. He fell in Florida and is in a rehabilitation hospital. (3/3)

PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for Milt Stainbrook, a friend of a church member, who is experiencing kidney failure. (3/4)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We mourn with **Ron Schaver** as his husband, **Jim Meurs**, passed away in Florida on Thursday morning, Mar. 26 after suffering from a fall earlier in the week. Service details will follow at a later date. (3/26)

We pray for **Rev. Bob Livingston** and his family as they mourn the sudden passing of his wife, **Laura**, on Mar. 24. (3/26)

Mindy Feder, a long time Mayflower congregant and former youth director, passed away on Feb. 25. Please keep her family in your prayers. (3/24)

Steve Draft friend of **Dale and Ellen DeHaan** has passed away. Prayers appreciated for Steve's wife Ellyn, and their family. (3/24)

Barbara Schoendorf passed away Saturday, Mar. 14. We pray for her family as they mourn her passing. A visitation was held Mar. 23 followed by a service. (3/14)

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY & OUR WORLD

As people all over the world wave palm branches and shout, "Hosanna!" meaning "O Save Us!" we take this as a prayer:

Lord, save us from the war violence and strife that plague our world, our country, our community, and our hearts. May we be peace seekers, peace makers, peace builders, and peace lovers today and always. Amen.



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**LIFE IS GOOD.
GIVE BLOOD.**

Scholarship Blood Drive **Mayflower Congregational Church**

2345 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

All donors who join us that day will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card as an incentive to give!

Boy Scout Troop 271 Fundraiser

The Boy Scouts are selling hanging flower baskets and more for a fundraiser! All proceeds will be used for adventures, exploring nature, and learning valuable scouting skills! **Thank you to Mayflower Congregational Church for your continued support!**

The QR code links directly to a Google form to place your order. It will allow you to select what kind of flower and color you would like. After you submit your order, someone from the troop will contact you for payment (cash, check or venmo).

The sale ends on Thursday, April 23. Baskets will be ready May 9.



**Scan to order
or contact**

Laura Koster

mrs.kosterite@gmail.com



geranium • full sun

10" Cutting Geranium
Hanging Basket

Available in: red, pink,
and violet

Price: **\$25.00**



petunias • full sun

10" Petunia Hanging
Basket

Available in: red, pink, purple
and white variegated mix,
or yellow

Price: **\$25.00**



impatiens • part shade

10" Impatiens Hanging
Basket

Available in: red, pink shades,
white, purple, orange, or mixed

Price: **\$15.00**



begonias • shade

10" Tuberous Begonia
Hanging Basket

Available in: pink, orange
yellow, or red

Price: **\$25.00**



begonias • part
sun/shade

10" Dragon Wing
Begonia Hanging
Basket

Available in: red, or pink

Price: **\$25.00**



boston fern • part shade

10" Boston Fern
Hanging Basket

Price: **\$20.00**



patio pot • full sun

10" Mixed Patio Pot
Mix of Marigolds,
Petunias, Ageratum
and Dusty Miller

Price: **\$25.00**



mixed basket • full sun

10" Specialty Mixed
Hanging Basket

Mix of three specialty
annuals. *actual colors/
combinations may vary from
photo

Price: **\$25.00**

Troop 271 Fundraiser Hanging Flower Baskets

Thank you for your support!

*All proceeds will be used for adventures,
exploring nature, and learning valuable skills.*

Baskets will be ready on May 9th
between 11am-12pm
at Mayflower Church

Questions?

Contact Laura Koster
mrs.kosterite@gmail.com

Committee Descriptions

Mayflower Committees are listed below followed by the purpose of each.
Please read through these as you consider your nominations for 2025.

Children & Youth Committee

Supports the children and youth ministries and the Mayflower staff who lead them.

Meets 3-4 times/year as needed

Christian Outreach Committee

Facilitates outreach in our community through word, deed, and resources.

Meets 2nd Tuesday/month 12-1pm

Congregational Care Committee

From the prayer list to visits to homes or hospitals; from helpful workshops to care groups and circles of support; from cards and flowers, our desire is to make sure our congregation is well cared for and has the resources they need.

Meets 3rd Thursday/month 4-5pm

Congregational Events Committee

Develops, organizes, and leads social events.

Meets 3-4 times/year as needed

Council

Responsible for the overall operation, spiritual life, and financial health of the church.

Meets 4th Tuesday/month 6:30pm

Endowment Trust Board of Trustees

Oversees the Mayflower Endowment Fund, which is a separate entity established by MCC and is governed by a formal Trust Agreement.

Meets 3-4 times/year as needed

Executive Committee

A small group of former moderators who advise the Council and Senior Minister on special projects, provide additional wisdom and council, and encourage the greater congregation. *Meets as needed*

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight of Church finances, develop the annual budget, monitor actual results and recommends needed adjustments to the

budget to Council to keep MCC financially viable.

Meets 3-4 times/year as needed

House and Grounds Committee

Maintains the church building and grounds in proper working order and aesthetically pleasing shape while meeting safety, security and stewardship goals.

Membership Committee

Supports current members of the church and actively works to promote the ministries of Mayflower to Sunday visitors and guests.

Meets 3rd Tuesday/month 8-9am

Nominating Committee

Recruits Council members and committee members and any other special committees as required. *Meets March-May*

Personnel Committee

Makes recommendations to Council with regard to staff leadership positions, provides guidance when HR questions arise, review issues of legal compliance and assist leadership as needed with staffing decisions.

Meets as needed

Worship and Music Committee

Coordinates various aspects of the worshipping life of the church fostering and supporting active, vital worship, and supports concerts and other music outreach.

Meets 2nd Tuesday/month 4-5pm

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: SUMMER YOUTH WILDERNESS TRIPS

May 29-31, 2026 | Manistee National Forest, MI

Two nights of backpacking, followed by a canoe float down the Manistee River. Learn basic wilderness skills, hiking and canoeing, spiritual practices and experiences, have fun in the wild without modern distractions, swim in the river and celebrate life. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.**

Registration is open. Please scan the **MANISTEE** QR code to sign up today.

▶ **OPEN TO MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS - \$100/STUDENT***

▶ **OPEN TO A LIMITED ADULT PARTICIPANTS - \$150/ADULT**

*There will be a mandatory fundraising event for students to attend to cover additional costs.



August 4-8, 2026 | New River Gorge, WV

Float the river, camp on the Appalachian Trail, repel the cliff walls, learn wilderness skills, spiritual practices and experiences, have fun in the wild without modern distractions, seek a deeper more connected life with God and the natural world. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.**

Registration is open, **\$1,000*/participant**. Scan the **WEST VIRGINIA** QR code to sign up.

▶ **OPEN TO YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AGES 12 AND UP**

▶ **OPEN TO ADULT PARTICIPANTS**

*\$100 deposit due at sign-up. Pricing subject to change based on # of participants and fundraising.



MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Both wilderness excursions will be led by Pastor Kent Dobson.
Email questions to Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org

Mayflower Small Groups: *Building Community*

Get plugged into Mayflower, consider joining one of the following small groups. To get involved, contact the church office (616-459-6255 or office@MayflowerChurch.org). These groups meet on a regular basis either at the church, or a restaurant, or someone's home, if noted. For up to date information, check the web calendar.

29UP (For ages 29+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship at various locations.

69UP (For ages 69+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship at various locations.

Chancel Choir – Wednesdays | 7:30pm

Doubts on Draft

3rd Thursday of the month | 5pm

Have questions about faith, spirituality, the Bible, your own story? Gather with Pastor Kent Dobson over a pint for informal conversation and community.

Grown-ups Gather & Graze (For ages 49+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship. Please bring an appetizer and beverage of your choice.

High School Breakfast Club – Tuesdays | 6:30am

High school students meet at Wolfgang's restaurant for breakfast.

Ladies' Luncheon

Women of all ages and stages gather for a time of food and fellowship at various local restaurants.

LGBTQ Support Circle

4th Thursday of the month | 6pm | Library
Support for parents, grandparents, and friends of LGBTQ. This group is open to any who are seeking community as they support their LGBTQ loved ones.

Mayflower Bells – Wednesdays | 6:30pm

Needlepoint & Stitching

Tuesdays | 10am | Atrium

Priscilla Circle

1st Wednesday of the month | 11am

Next meeting: April 1

The women of Mayflower's Priscilla Circle volunteer and raise funds for causes associated with the church and our community.

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Studies

Mondays | 9:30am | Cindy DeBoer

Mondays | 5pm | Helen Bell

Thursdays | 10am | Pastor Steve Armfield

Men's Bible Studies

Mondays | 5pm

Tuesdays | 8am

Fridays | 7am

Partnering Organization Small Groups

These groups meet at Mayflower on a regular basis.

Al-Anon – Wednesdays | 7pm | Parlor

Boy Scout Troop 271 – Thursdays | 7:30pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesdays | 6pm

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

Your generous gifts ensure Mayflower's current and future ministry. Thank you.

For your convenience we offer electronic giving options:



Scan the QR Code with your phone to give/pay directly through E-Zekiel: no sign-up required.

Download the app and create an account for future secure scan-and-go transactions.



TEXT TO GIVE

On your phone, simply text the word: GIVE To: 6163446255 (no spaces) and then follow the prompts.



TOY DRIVE | APR 13 - MAY 1

Are you doing some spring cleaning during spring break? Donate your gently used toys and games to **GOGO REPLAY TOYS.**

Bring them to Mayflower April 13 through May 1.

TOYS/GAMES/PUZZLES FOR ALL AGES ARE ACCEPTED. PLACE IN THE BOXES AT THE PORTICO ENTRANCE.

(TOYS MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO EGR MIDDLE SCHOOL ON MAY 2.)

RePlay Toys partners with Guiding Light, Girls & Boys Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other local organizations. Find out more at: gogosreplaytoys.org

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 | 616-459-6255 | MayflowerChurch.org

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Senior Pastor | Rev. Kent Dobson, Associate Pastor

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music & Organist

Rachael Cooley, Executive Director of Youth, Outreach, & Operations

Amy Dunham, Office Manager | Andy Ely, Business Manager

Murry Idema, May-Flowers Ministry | Rachel Blair, Congregational Care Coordinator

Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator | Kathy Tetzlaff, Facilities

Scott Bosscher, Chancel Choir Director | Dr. Mark Webb and Melia Colwell, Midweek Choir Directors

Brennen Kartes, Director of Midweek Bells | Aaron Wheeler, Children's Choir Accompanist

WE BELIEVE: Faith is a journey, God is good, Jesus saves, and the Spirit leads us to faith, hope, and love as we honor the dignity of all God's people.

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

187

Matthew 21:8-9

Jeanette Threlfall, 1821-1880

Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Württemberg, 1784

Adapt. and harm. by William H. Monk, 1823-1889

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
 The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, And chant - ing clear and loud.
 For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them Close fold - ed to His breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice,

The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
 Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
 And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

ELLACOMBE
7.6.7.6 D

THE TRIUNE GOD

183

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Latin, 12th C.

German, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

Trans. by James W. Alexander, 1804-1859, alt.

Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612

Harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With
 2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To

grief and shame weighed down, Now scorn - ful - ly sur -
 all for sin - ners' gain; Mine, mine was the trans -
 thank Thee, dear - est friend; For this Thy dy - ing

round - ed With thorns, Thy on - ly crown, How
 gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain. Lo,
 sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end? O

art Thou pale with an - guish, With
 here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis
 make me Thine for - ev - er; And,

PASSION CHORALE
7.6.7.6 D

THE TRIUNE GOD

sore a - buse and scorn! How does that vis - age
I de - serve Thy place; Look on me with Thy
should I faint - ing be, Lord, let me nev - er,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with notes and rests, and the bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

lan - guish Which once was bright as morn!
fa - vor, Vouch - safe to me Thy grace.
nev - er, Out - live my love to Thee! A - men.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.