



Palm Sunday/Passion of our Lord

Installation of Reverend Brendan Wiechert

March 29, 2026

10:00 am

American Lutheran Church

Newport, Washington

(509) 447-4338

americanlutheranchurch.net

Preacher Terry Tuvy Allen

Bishop Meggan Manlove

Pastor Brendan Wiecher

Ministers: All the People of God

ALL ARE WELCOME!

We are delighted that each of you has joined us for worship. Our prayer is that our service will be an opportunity for you to both worship and thank God, as well as a time of blessing and renewal for your spirit. Thank you for being the Body of Christ gathered here this morning.

Today is a special day in the life of our congregation as we welcome **Reverend Brendan Wiechert** our newly called Pastor, along with his wife Debbie, daughter Emma, son Calen and mom Sandra.

We have committed as a church to pray for all those in our community who are living in the darkness of addiction. We have lit a candle in the front of the sanctuary as we pray for the light of Christ to break into their lives.

Before worship begins, you are invited to light a candle for a friend or family member for whom you are praying.

All are welcome at the LORD'S Table to receive communion or a blessing. More information regarding communion is included in the order of service.

After worship, **please join us for a time of fellowship** in the room directly behind the rear of the sanctuary.

During worship, please turn all electronic devices to silent mode.

The bathrooms are located on the east side of the narthex in the hallway just past the kitchen.

If you have any questions, please ask one of the ushers or the person next to you for assistance.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

† GATHERING †

The Holy Spirit calls us to gather as the people of God.

The assembly gathers on the sidewalk in front of the church, so that all may enter in procession. Branches of all kinds are distributed before the service begins.

The service begins with repeated shouts of acclamation.

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

We process into the narthex with continued shouts of acclamation

Processional Gospel: John 12:12–17

The Message

The Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

See How Your King Comes

¹²⁻¹⁵ The next day the huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Yes! The King of Israel!

Jesus got a young donkey and rode it, just as the Scripture has it:

No fear, Daughter Zion: See how your king comes, riding a donkey's colt.

¹⁶ The disciples didn't notice the fulfillment of many Scriptures at the time, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that what was written about him matched what was done to him.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, was there giving eyewitness accounts. It was because they had spread the word of this latest God-sign that the crowd swelled to a welcoming parade. The Pharisees took one look and threw up their hands: "It's out of control. The world's in a stampede after him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing Of Palms

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

Let us pray. *(A brief silence is kept.)* God of power and might,

Lord, you came, riding on a donkey, listening to cries of "Hosanna!" that you knew would turn to cries of "crucify, crucify."

We don't know how you did it, but we are thankful

grant us a measure of your courage to proclaim the good news that you came, for us, and for all people bless us Lord with joy and audacity the joy to come in and be nourished by word and sacrament the audacity to go out with "Hosannas!" on our lips prepared to follow you all the way to the cross. Amen.

Procession

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

The assembly follows the ministers into the church. During the procession, the minister and the assembly repeat the following:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The procession is concluded.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The assembly is seated.

† THE WORD †

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

"steadfast love"

homily & children's message

Pastor Terry will invite the children to come forward as the homily concludes, parents may accompany them.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

Choir

Prayer Of The Day

Let us pray *(A brief silence is kept before the prayer.)* Almighty God,
through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, fill us with your Spirit, so that together we may serve Christ and our neighbor in peace and joy. Amen.

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn Of The Day

All glory, laud, and honor
(verses 1, 2, 3, 5)

ELW 344

Installation of Reverend Brendan Wiechert

Presentation *The assembly stands.*

*The pastor being installed and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly.
The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

**Having been authorized by the church to install Brendan Wiechert, our co-worker in the gospel,
as pastor. I now ask for certification of this call.**

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

**After prayerful deliberation, we, of American Lutheran Church, have called Brendan Wiechert to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of pastor.
I present Brendan and this letter certifying the call.**

*The representative gives the presiding minister the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted.
The representative moves aside.*

The assembly is seated.

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (*1 Timothy 4:12-16*)

The presiding minister addresses questions to the minister of word and sacrament.

Brendan, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

*The assembly responds: **Amen.***

The assembly stands.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, will you receive Brendan Wiechert as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard Brendan Wiechert as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Brendan?

Will you help and honor Brendan in carrying out this ministry?

In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.

Brendan the office of *pastor* is now committed to you

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessing

The newly installed pastor may kneel as the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will,
working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight;
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

The pastor stands. The following procession to the places of the word and sacraments.

The presiding minister escorts the pastor to the place of baptism. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

They proceed to the place of the word. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

They proceed to the place of the meal. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

The presiding minister may address the assembly with these or similar words.

People of God, I present to you Reverend Brendan Wiechert, your pastor.
Let us welcome Brendan in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

Prayers of Intercession

O God, we pray this day:

for our newly called Pastor Brendan and his family.

for ourselves that inspired by your Spirit we may continue in faith and ministry.

for all who have a song they cannot sing,

for all who have a burden they cannot bear,

for all who live in chains they cannot break,

for all who wander homeless and cannot return,

for all who are sick and those who tend them,

for all who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,

for all who live in hunger and for those who will not share their bread,

for all who are misunderstood and for those who misunderstand,

for all who are captives and for those who are captors,

for all whose words of love are locked within their hearts

and for those who yearn to hear their words.

Have mercy upon these, O God.

Have mercy upon us all. Amen.

Based on a poem by Ann Weems

Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

please be seated

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You may put your offerings in the box on the table at the back of the church - or you are invited to make your offerings online on our website - americanlutheranchurch.net - or mail them to American Lutheran Church at PO Box 653- Newport, WA 99156

† THE MEAL †

God welcomes and feeds all people with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

It is both our duty and our joy It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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Thanksgiving at the Table

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

We join in prayer as our Lord 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 Communion

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. This is the Lord's table, all are welcome.

Instructions for Communion

All are welcome—children and adults—to come to the table of the LORD to receive communion or a blessing. This meal, instituted by JESUS, is one way in which we experience the presence of GOD in our lives. Through bread and wine—the body and blood of CHRIST—we receive forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life. This is GOD's action, not ours. GOD is faithful, even when we are full of doubts and questions.

The sacrament is received by partaking in the bread alone if you do not partake in grape products. Gluten free bread is also available (please let the pastor know) Both wine and juice are offered. If you are **unable to come forward for communion**, please let an usher or neighbor know that you would like communion brought to you in your pew.

Communion Hymns

Ah, Holy Jesus	ELW 349
They Crucified My Lord	ELW 350
O Sacred Head Now Wounded	ELW 351

Blessing after Communion

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, you have nourished and strengthened us at your table. Renew us by your presence in our lives, strengthen us to serve filled with the Lord's † love and peace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of mercy, **we give you thanks for seating us at your table awakened by the breathing of your Spirit, bless us as we go forth to share your love and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

† SENDING †

Following Christ path, His passion and death; filled with his Spirit we are blessed as we follow out into the world to serve.

The congregation is seated.

Announcements

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

Benediction

Today we celebrate our blessings and hope for a future.

We go forth together, renewed to share the good news of God's love for all people
in the name of the Father, † the Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sending Song

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

Please stay for a time of fellowship and celebration.

Dismissal

Go in peace to be the love of Christ in our world.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Poetry by Ann Weems, Kneeling in Jerusalem Copyright 1992

This Week

Monday	10 am	Bible Study
	Noon	Al-anon
Tuesday	10 am	Quilting
Wednesday	7pm	Choir
Thursday	7pm	Maundy Thursday service
Friday	7pm	Good Friday service
Saturday	3pm	Recovery & Support Group
Sunday	10 am	Worship

Remember in Prayer: Lucy Anderson (at the request of Mary Bug Smith), Anita (at the request of Terry Zakar), Cyndy Akre Grady, Scone Bender, Rudy Bergen, Roger Brandt, Annika Britton, Barbara Campbell, Justin Carnie (Ruth and Mitch Carnie), , Shae Courtney (son-in-law of the Lewis'), Susan Fox, Dorothy Funden, Gladys Gerow, Larry Gerow, friends and family of Nellie Graham, Ed and Lynda Heckman, Gary Heckathorn, Annika Hughes, Kurt Johnson , Imo Jones, Kapple family, Leroy Leland, Garrett Levers, Moses (at the request of Sark Ratliff), Steve Morey (Phyllis and Wilson's grandfather), friends and family of Carl Pitts, Sark Ratliff, Jeanette Reiter, Joel Robertson, Carol Rock, Sandy Rock (Joy Peralta's sister-in-law), Sara Rogers (at the request of Christian Britton), Judy Schoesler, Jason (at the request of Terry Zakar).

***Please note:** Prayer requests will normally be kept on the list for one month unless requested for longer.

Announcements:

Scam: If you receive a text or email claiming to be from the Pastor asking for money or gift cards, it is a scam.

Recovery & Support Group: Christian Britton and Sark Ratliff are hosting a support group for all addictions. They meet on Saturdays at 3pm.

Recycle opportunity: Your everyday printing supplies can help fund our youth activities at ALC. Recycle your used ink cartridges and buy your replacements through www.planetgreenrecycle.com Be sure to use Program ID 32635 to support us with every order. Used cartridges can also be brought to the church and added to a box in the entry way. They will be mailed in and funds sent to the church. No cell phones at this time.

Pastor Brendan Wiechert can be reached at alc.pastors@gmail.com, 509-863-5100. Please put him in your contacts to help avoid some of the scams going around. Even if you get email/text from the correct source, do not send money or give out any personal information.

If you would like to be on our church email list for announcements and prayer concerns, please send your email address to alc.churchoffice@gmail.com.

Reminder: Please don't forget to set the alarm before leaving the church. If you do not have a code please text/call Laretta 509-447-3440