



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

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## March 22, 2026 ✚ The Fifth Sunday in Lent

*In this service, the place of the Passion is Pilate's Judgment Hall, where Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead. We are called to remember that the judgment that should have been placed on us was placed on him that we might be free. The meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with Pilate's Judgment Hall help us to grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.*

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### ✚ GATHERING ✚

#### **Prelude**

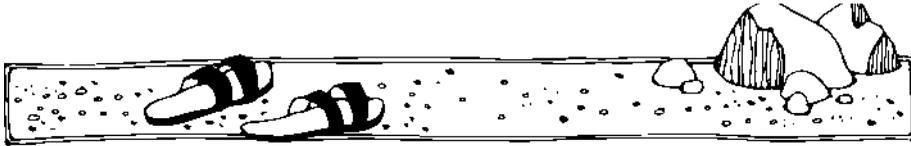
*(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)*

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





## Fifth Sunday In Lent

### Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to God, in the presence of one another,  
believing and trusting in the forgiveness of all our sins.

*Silence for meditation and self-examination.*

Forgiving Father,  
**though I don't like to admit it, I am a sinner, much like Barabbas —  
a rebel and a wretch, born dead in transgressions and sins,  
lost and without hope, doomed to perish.  
Blinded by the god of this age,  
my finest deeds are still soiled with sin,  
and all my righteous acts are like unclean rags, I am Barabbas.  
Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

Hear the good news!  
Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death for you.  
Jesus was determined  
to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha for you.  
That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally.  
**Faithful Lord, with me abide!  
I shall follow where you guide!**

### Gathering Song

### *My Song is Love Unknown*

(LBW #94, v.1-4)



- 1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
- 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
- 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683  
Music: John D. Edwards, 1806-1885  
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## Opening Litany

Let us ever walk with Jesus.

**To see the depths of his love.**

To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

**To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

**We walk with Jesus to Pilate's judgment hall.**

To hear about Jewish leaders, a prisoner named Barabbas  
and even Pilate's wife.

**It all boils down to three words — innocent, guilty and free.**

Faithful Lord, with me abide.

**I shall follow where you guide!**



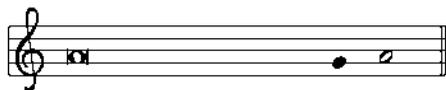
## The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Kyrie

*ELW setting 4*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



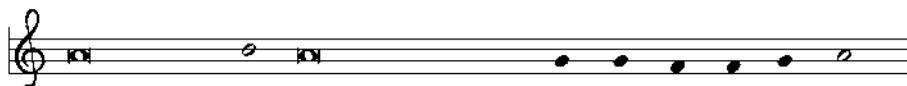
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Almighty God,

**you set Israel free from the chains of Egyptian bondage  
and you set Barabbas free from Roman execution.**

**Set us free, we pray, from every prison that shackles and binds us;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### First Reading

Exodus 14:22-29

*This is the miraculous climax of the Exodus, where God splits the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground while drowning the pursuing Egyptian army. This pivotal moment symbolizes divine deliverance from slavery, the triumph of God over chaos and tyranny, and a definitive end to Egypt's pursuit.*

*A reading from Exodus.*

<sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

Romans 6:1-11

*This is a foundational passage in which the Apostle Paul explains that believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection through baptism, transitioning from slaves to sin into a new life of freedom and righteousness.*

*A reading from Romans.*

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

<sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Lenten Verse

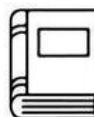
*ELW setting 4*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.



## Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:11-23

*This passage details the crucial, tense, and politically charged trial of Jesus before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. It highlights Jesus' affirmation of his kingship, his surprising silence against accusations, Pilate's attempt to release him, his wife's warning, and the crowd's demand for Barabbas, setting the stage for the crucifixion.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<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.

<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!”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Time Sermon



### *Pilate's Judgment Hall*

## Hymn of the Day

## *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

#337



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - 'reign die?  
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?  
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in  
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,  
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?  
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and love be - yond de - gree!  
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.  
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.  
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824  
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## Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us profess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## Prayers of the People

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence,  
let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for the church.

Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name.

Breathe into us so that we may share your message  
of forgiveness, hope, and love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for creation.

Renew landscapes that have dried up,

prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats  
after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for the nations.

Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice,

free all who live in places of war and violence,  
and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for all people in need.

Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many.

Console any who weep and heal all who are sick, *especially...*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for this assembly.

Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized.

Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith.

Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save,  
and bring us up from our graves to life in you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

## Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## ✠ OFFERING ✠

### Offering Response

### *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

#186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### Great Thanksgiving

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.**



## Proper Preface

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.

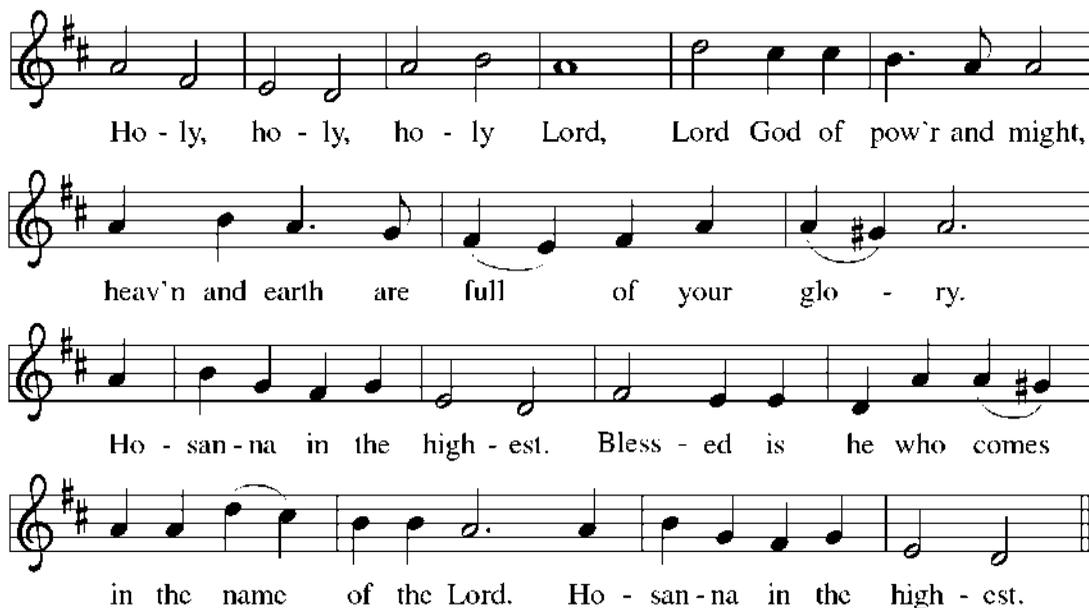
You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

## Sanctus

### *Holy, Holy, Holy*

*ELW setting 4*



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



## **Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,*

*shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

**Breathe new life into us.**

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

### Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### Agnus Dei

### Lamb of God

*ELW setting 4*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **Distribution with silence for meditation**

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

*The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.*

*The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.*

## **Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

God of salvation,

**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.**

**Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

## **Announcements**

## **Benediction**

Jesus invites us to walk with him to Jerusalem, a place of great suffering and a place of great love.

**We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb and resurrection victory. Amen.**

## **Sending Song**

### *My Song is Love Unknown*

*(LBW #94, v.5-7)*

5 They rise, and needs will have  
my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save,  
the prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

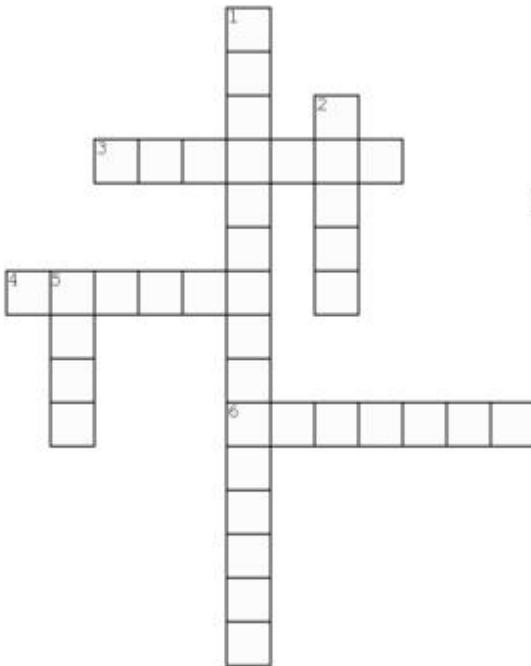
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 Music: John D. Edwards, 1806-1885  
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## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Jesus Christ Trial

Complete the crossword puzzle



### Horizontal

3. Roman Governor of Judea
4. high priest Jew
6. Tetrarch who refused to judge Jesus Christ and returns him to the Roman governor?

### Vertical

1. Name of the Jewish tribunal that holds and initiates the lawsuit against Jesus Christ?
2. who betrays Jesus Christ for not starting a revolt against the Romans?
5. father-in-law of the high priest and conspirator to initiate the trial against Jesus Christ

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# Jesus before Pilate Word Search

E Y G T E Y X Q Y J H Q S Y C K T  
N C U T W Z M M H Y M D L H Q M P  
K S U Y W L J Q W H B U I A G V V  
W O R L D C O U L M P E O P L E A  
D G H J E S W E J O F L H M F I B  
Y I X X U Y P F L P A X C W G T R  
C V X G N I K K R O C O N Z R G O  
K E T A L I P E F P N N F U B Z N  
J Y X Q V N I O W D J O T Y N Q J  
X H Z S M S Q Z E P L H U B C E H  
P F K A T O E M X L W E L U S J K  
W M I S P T N V O Z O S F U A Z J  
D T N N V Q H W O D N O S W X B B  
S K G R D S E Z K L D P W N Z F J  
V B D V K R B U V Y Y R Z Q V A N  
H F O D S J O F S T N U U A X B O  
X Y M T F F H D C F M P T R Q K N

Chief Preists  
Condemn  
Pilate  
Jesus

Followers  
Kingdom  
Truth  
King

Purpose  
People  
World  
Jews