

TRINITY CHURCH OF PORTLAND

MARCH 1, 2026

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Please stand as we hear the Call to Worship.*

—Psalm 2:1-12

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Brief Prayer.*

WE RESPOND IN CONFESSION

In Response To: John 18:33–38; Matthew 27:24; John 19:12–16; Revelation 19:16

Almighty God, we confess that like Pilate, we seek to avoid difficult decisions about Jesus.

We prefer religious ritual to true righteousness, we choose political convenience over costly truth, we release our cherished sins while rejecting the innocent Son.

We have made ourselves kings in place of Christ, demanding our own kingdom come and our will be done.

Forgive us through the King who suffered for rebels, and make us citizens of his eternal kingdom.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSES

John 18:33–38 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

Matthew 27:24 So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

John 19:12–16 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Revelation 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

GOD GRANTS US PARDON

—Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON TEXT

—*Word Life: John 18:28-40*

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

COVENANT RENEWAL

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the One, Holy, Christian and Apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BENEDICTION

—Revelation 1:5-6

and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.