



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

10:30 Holy Communion

Today we begin the most important holiday season for our faith—Holy Week. Like many Jews, Jesus is coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the great Passover holiday. But it will not be a normal Passover celebration for Jesus and his followers. Jesus will go into the temple, but instead of reverent worship and sacrifices he causes problems and overturns the tables of the money changers. For a few days he will argue with the religious leaders. By Thursday they will have had enough and come to the conclusion that Jesus must go—by death if necessary. Thursday night Jesus shares his last supper with his most loyal 12 followers. But they will all desert him before the night is out; one of them actually betraying him. By Friday midday Jesus will have been forsaken by all, tried, beaten, mocked and nailed to a cross. Before nightfall the Savior will be dead.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

The congregation gathers in the Fellowship Hall

Palm branches are distributed to every member of the congregation

Blessing of the Palms

P. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C. Hosanna to the Son of David!

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus. Today he entered the holy city and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

Processional Psalm Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

P: Give thanks, the Lord is good,
God's love is for ever!

**C: Now let all God's people say,
"God's love is for ever!"**

P: Open the gates of justice,
let me praise God within them.

**C: This is the Lord's own gate,
only the just will enter.**

P: I thank you for you answered me,
and you became my savior.

**C: The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

P: This is the word of the Lord,
how wonderful in our eyes.

**C: This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad.**

P: Lord, give us the victory!
Lord, grant us success!

C: Blest is the one who comes,

**who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the Lord's house.**

P: The Lord God is our light:
adorn the altar with branches.

**C: I will thank you, my God,
I will praise you highly.
Give thanks, the Lord is good,
God's love is for ever!**

P: Let us go forth in peace,
C: in the name of the Lord.

The congregation processes into the sanctuary. After arriving in the sanctuary the congregation sings:

Opening Hymn All Glory Laud and Honor
(For music turn to Hymn 344 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain: **All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**1. You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain***

**2. The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. *Refrain***

**3. The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayers and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain***

**4. To you, before your Passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain***

**5. Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,**

**great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. Refrain**

Text: Theodulph of Orlenas, c. 760-821; tr. John M. Neake, 1818-1866, alt. Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1636

P. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
C. **Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Announcements

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

B:⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens
wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16 (read together)

**C: Pity me, Lord, I hurt all over;
my eyes are swollen, my heart and body ache.**

**Grief consumes my life, sighs fill my days;
guilt saps my strength, my bones dissolve.**

**Enemies mock me, make me the butt of jokes.
Neighbors scorn me,
strangers scorn me,
strangers avoid me.**

Forgotten like the dead, I am a shattered jar.

I heard the crowd whisper,

**“Attack on every side!”
as they scheme to take my life.**

But I trust in you, Lord.

**I say, “You are my God, my life is in your hands.”
Snatch me from the enemy, ruthless in their chase.**

Look on me with love, save your servant.

Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11

D:⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Philippians 2:8-9)

C: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

Gospel Reading Matthew 21:1-17

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ ⁴This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ ‘Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,

‘Who is this?’ ¹¹The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, ‘It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer”;

but you are making it a den of robbers.’

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’, they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, ‘Do you hear what these are saying?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Yes; have you never read, “Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies

you have prepared praise for yourself”?’

¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Christ, the Life of All the Living

(For music see Hymn 339 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff’ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

2. **You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,**

dearest Jesus, unto you.

3. Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

Nicene Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings
The Holy City by E. E. Weatherly and Stephen Adams

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish this earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are raised in prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

† MEAL †

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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 the 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 in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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, he 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."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

492 *Eat This Bread (Red Hymnal)*

342 *There in God's Garden (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray: Generous Host,

You have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the Holy Trinity:

The Father who calls all things into existence,

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
(For music turn to Hymn 325 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

2. **In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.**
3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, Verolga Nix; copyright 1981 Abingdon Press

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Sue Kaufmann |
| Acolyte | Thomas Bullwinkle |
| Altar Care | Gary Boisseau |
| Communion Assistants | Gary Boisseau |
| Counters | Bill and Katy Stimmel |
| Coffee Hour | |

Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 5

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Helen Crown |
| Acolyte | Charlotte Stroup |
| Altar Care | Allyn Itterly |
| Communion Assistants | Gary Boisseau |
| Counters | Bill and Katy Stimmel |
| Coffee Hour | Candy Eggs |

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Dongwon Shin, Pianist