

Palm Sunday Worship Service

March 28-29, 2026



Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! (John 12:13)

Music of Preparation

Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: **“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”**

Welcome! Hosanna in the highest! Lord Jesus, as we remember your triumphal entry, prepare our hearts to welcome you with joy and humility. Clear away our distractions so we may follow you in both triumph and trial. May our worship today honor you, our gracious King. Amen.

Devotions & Publications Available are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... **WORSHIP NOTES**

Communion: *The Lord’s Supper - The Real Presence*
We come to the Lord’s Table because we have sinned and want the Lord’s assurance of His forgiveness of our sins as well as His strength for living the New Life of His Resurrection. As we eat the bread and drink the wine, because Jesus says so, we also receive His very Body and Blood. Doing this in repentant faith we receive His forgiveness. With forgiveness must also come the repentant, New Life, seeking and using His power to overcome sinful ways and forsaking them, including any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, and unfaithfulness in regular worship and attendance at the Lord’s Table. Only in such faith do we properly and profitably receive the Sacrament and not misuse it to our judgment.
Fellow confirmed Christians of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod are welcome to share this sacrament with us. Prompted by love and caring, we ask that our other guests please speak with a pastor or lay minister before communing.
NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, the two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

To Our Visitors...Our church and school has a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available at the main entrance.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers this weekend are given in honor of and with thanks to God on our 50th wedding anniversary, by Bill & Mari Stevenson.

Before worship prayer

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

5:00pm Special Music: “Hosanna, Rejoice and Sing” Sanctuary Singers

We’re So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Stand (as you are able)

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

P: Dear Friends in Christ: During the past five weeks we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's saving death and resurrection. This great paschal mystery now lies before us as we enter with Him to the city where He confronts the cross for us. All our prayers, special devotions, acts of charity and self-denial point us to this week. We commemorate how our Lord entered His own city in triumph to meet sin and death on the cross and in the tomb.

C: **Here He completes His saving purpose by suffering, dying, and rising for us all.**

P: Let us pray, . . . Almighty God, we pray You to bless and consecrate these palm branches and those who bear them that we may honor Christ as our Lord and King and that we may follow Him without fear as He leads us on the pathway of eternal life.

C: **Bless us who bear them now, and grant that we may hail Him as our King now and in the heavenly Jerusalem forever; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

P: Blessed is the King of Israel.

C: **Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

P: Blessed is the Almighty Father, Creator of heaven and earth.

C: **Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

P: Blessed is the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, who brings us God's peace and forgiveness!

C: **Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

P: Blessed is the Holy Spirit, whose presence give us power and life!

C: **Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! You are the King of Israel and the King of all!**

P: Let us sing the praises of our Savior and King!

Entrance Hymn: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB, hymn #343

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!

Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain*

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.

His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Let us pray, . . . Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City,

C: grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life;

P: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**
(Please be Seated)

8:30am Special Music: “Give Me Oil in My Lamp” and
“We Have a King Who Rides a Donkey”
Day School Choirs

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a *(The LORD Helps Me!)*

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me?

Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 *(Obedient Unto Death)*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Stand (as you are able)

Verse - Lent - Divine Service 1, Page 157

Joel 2:13

C: (Sung) Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C: (Sung) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Lesson: John 12:12-19

(Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem!)

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (Sung) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LSB, hymn #442

Refrain

*All glory, laud, and honor To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.*

*You are the King of Israel And David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming, Our King and Blessed One. Refrain*

The company of angels Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation In chorus make reply. *Refrain*

The multitude of pilgrims With palms before You went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems Before You we present. *Refrain*

To You before Your passion They sang their hymns of praise;
To You, now high exalted, Our melody we raise. *Refrain*

As You received their praises, Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, Our good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Sermon: "Awake, Awake the King is Coming"

John 12:12-19

Stand (as you are able)

NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, for all who remember our Lord's Passion, death and resurrection this week, for all the Body of Christ, and for all people according to their needs. . . . Holy Lord, all glory and praise are offered to You, for You are our Redeemer and King, our Savior and Friend. We adore You and exalt Your holy name.

C: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

P: O God, reign over us, not according to our human devising and perceptions, but according to Your good and gracious will. Shape our attitude to be like Yours, living a life of humility and obedience.

C: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

P: Lord of life, Your death on Calvary's cross means life for us. Today we pray that the comfort and assurance of the resurrection to new life is with the families of all who mourn. Give them Your peace.

C: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

P: Lord Jesus, throughout Your earthly ministry You brought comfort and healing to many. So bring the ministry of healing into our midst according to Your will. O Lord, we pray that You be with those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Grant healing, comfort, and faith to those who are sick, hear us as we pray for them.

C: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

P: Lord, during this Holy Week, strengthen our faith and trust in You. As we move from the triumph of Palm Sunday to the institution of Your Supper, to the agony of Good Friday, to the glories of Easter, be with us and send Your Spirit that our meditation of Your holy Passion may move us to greater love for You and for others.

C: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

P: King of heaven, by Your Word and Sacraments continue to always strengthen our faith until that day when we enter the gates of the New Jerusalem and enjoy eternity with You and all believers.

C: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings & Attendance Cards

OFFERTORY - Create In Me

LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193

C: (Sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

SACRAMENT

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Dear Friends in Christ, As we come to our Lord's Table, it is important for us to examine our hearts before God. Let us take a moment of silence to reflect on our lives and confess our sins to God, our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Blessed Lord, You always come among Your people for good,

C: We confess to You that we are born sinful and both by nature and choice have turned away from You. We have enthroned self-interest and pride as our kings, and they have ruled us as tyrants. We have failed to acknowledge Your rightful lordship in our lives and in society. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by the power of the Holy Spirit turn our hearts this day to worship and follow Jesus, the one true King. Amen.

P: The King has won your freedom. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the

grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thank You, Father, for the gift of forgiveness and life! Amen!

P: Let us all join together in the prayer our Lord has taught us:

All: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

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

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God

John 1:29

C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB443 - Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven Rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children Should on His bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heav’n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him With heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence Eternally rejoice!

LSB437 - Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my sov’reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For His own creatures’ sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
’Tis all that I can do.

LSB531 - Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus (tune LSB 338)

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior,
Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor:
Life is given through Thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven
Through the virtue of Thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven,
Reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,
There forever to abide;
All the heav’nly hosts adore Thee,
Seated at Thy Father’s side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading;
There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding
Till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, pow’r, and blessing
Thou art worthy to receive;
Highest praises, without ceasing,
Right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
All your noblest anthems raise;
Help to sing our Savior’s merits,
Help to chant Immanuel’s praise!

PRAYER

P: Let us pray, . . . Gracious Lord, we have witnessed the power of Your love in the suffering and death our Lord humbly bore for us and for the whole world. Grant us to have in our hearts His humility that we may joyfully serve You and our neighbor in His name. Make us to know the mind of Christ that we may daily grow in holiness and righteousness, walking upon the narrow way of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **AMEN! Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

BLESSING

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with His favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.** *Numbers 6:24-26*

Closing Hymn: “The Royal Banners Forward Go” *LSB, hymn #455 (tune 441)*

The royal banners forward go;
The cross shows forth redemption’s flow,
Where He, by whom our flesh was made,
Our ransom in His flesh has paid:

Where deep for us the spear was dyed,
Life’s torrent rushing from His side,
To wash us in the precious flood
Where flowed the water and the blood.

Fulfilled is all that David told
In sure prophetic song of old,
That God the nations’ king should be
And reign in triumph from the tree,

On whose hard arms, so widely flung,
The weight of this world’s ransom hung,
The price of humankind to pay
And spoil the spoiler of his prey.

O tree of beauty, tree most fair,
Ordained those holy limbs to bear:
Gone is thy shame, each crimsoned bough
Proclaims the King of Glory now.

To Thee, eternal Three in One,
Let homage meet by all be done;
As by the cross Thou dost restore,
So guide and keep us evermore.

See You In Worship This Week!

After worship prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Your most gracious favor, and further us with Your continual help that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in You we may glorify Your holy name and finally by Your mercy obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after the service.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen Senior Pastor	Rev. David Baker Missionary to Mongolia
Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor	Rev. Ross Engel Adopt-A-Chaplain
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HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM FOR US!

Saturday, March 28th - 5:00 p.m. Communion . . (Downtown Church Campus)

PALM SUNDAY - JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM FOR US!

Sunday, March 29th - 8:30 a.m. Communion (School Campus in Bourbonnais)
11:05 a.m. Communion (School Campus in Bourbonnais)

MAUNDY THURSDAY - JESUS GIVES HIS SUPPER FOR US!

Thursday, April 2nd - 7:00 p.m. Communion . . . (Downtown Church Campus)

GOOD FRIDAY - JESUS SUFFERS FOR US!!

Friday, April 3rd - 12:05 p.m. (Downtown Church Campus)

GOOD FRIDAY - TENEBRAE - SERVICE OF DARKNESS

Friday, April 3rd - 7:00 p.m. (Downtown Church Campus)

SATURDAY - NO WORSHIP SERVICE - April 4th

EASTER SUNDAY - JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD FOR US!!

Sunday, April 5th 6:00 a.m. Communion . . . (Downtown Church Campus)
9:00 a.m. Communion . . . (Downtown Church Campus)
11:00 a.m. Communion . . . (Downtown Church Campus)

