

Palm Sunday / The Sunday of the Passion

March 29, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

With One Voice: Holy Communion, Setting 6



Welcome! Today's liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. We hear Luke's account of the Passion today. Though Jesus was obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God the Father. We gather to remember and give thanks for his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. This Holy Week will culminate in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

Please join your heart and voice in praising our Lenten Lord and Savior in this worship service. If you would like more information about St. John's and its ministry, please speak with one of the ushers, greeters, or the pastor.



Prayer Before Worship

Gracious Lord Jesus, on this day when we remember your entrance into Jerusalem amidst shouts of "Hosanna!" and the waving of palm branches, help us remember why you did this: to offer your life upon the cross as the sacrifice for our sins. Enter into our hearts this day and reign there as our King and Lord. Bless this time of worship as we enter into Holy Week. Amen.

Liturgy with Palms

Weather permitting, the congregation gathers outside the sanctuary in the courtyard.

Worship bulletins and palm branches are distributed before the service begins. In case of inclement weather, the service will begin in the Sanctuary.

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L 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:
Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Processional Gospel

John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So 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!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His 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. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Opening Hymn

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (LSB 442)
Congregation and Handbell Ensemble

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

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

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

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

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

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

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Greeting

P Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. The abundant grace and mercy of God be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Children's Ministry Ensemble

"Hosanna in the Highest"

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a 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 is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *(spoken responsively)*

Psalm 118:19-29

L Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

C **This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

L I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

C The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

L This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

C This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!

C Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

L The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!

C You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.

L Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C for his steadfast love endures forever!

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

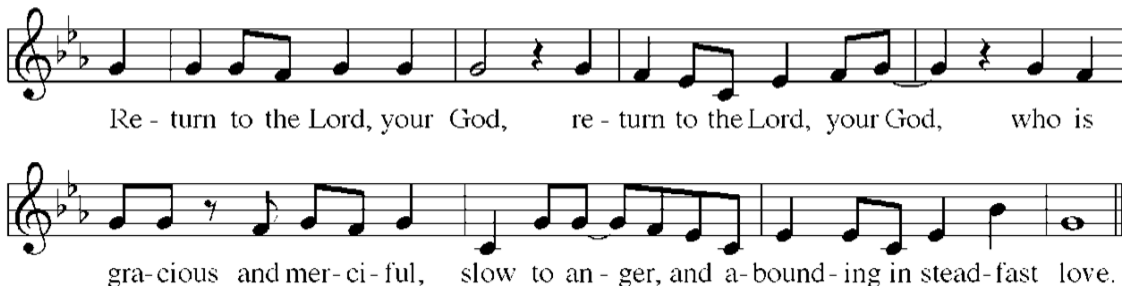
*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture
and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸**And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.** ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel – The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 27:11-54

P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew,
the twenty-seventh chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²²Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴So 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." ²⁵And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

P This is Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"From Ashes to Alleluia: With Jesus on the Way"

The sermon will be in three parts interspersed with stanzas from the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" (LSB 441)

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

Prayers of the People

P Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season of Lent each petition ends with the phrase: "Hear us, O God."

Please respond by saying: "Your mercy is great."

The prayers end with the words:

P Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

- L** Let us pray: God our provider,
C **you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Rite of Confession and Absolution

- P** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Gracious God,

C **we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.**

We are not worthy to be called your children.

Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways.

Forgive us and bring us back to you,

For we once were dead but now have life, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

- P** The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives life, freedom from the power of sin, and resurrection from the dead. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Live in newness of life.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

- P** Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Preface

- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:
heav-en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

Agnus Dei

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

* May be sung in canon beginning here.

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music © 1992 CPH Publishing

Please be seated

Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at the Distribution

"Hosanna"

(arr. Larry Biser)
Handbell Ensemble

"A Beggar-King Comes Riding"

(GIA 8)



1. A beg - gar - king comes rid - ing To Ju - dah's roy - al
2. A home - less king comes rid - ing In - to Je - ru - sa -
3. An ex - ile - king comes rid - ing In - to Je - ru - sa -



town, His mount no pranc - ing stal - lion, Sharp
lem. The might - y rise a - gainst Him To
lem. He claims no splen - did pal - ace, His



thorns His on - ly crown. A palm branch is His
mock Him and con - demn. He ban - quets with the
grave a bor - rowed tomb. But from that tomb God



scep - ter, A don - key is His steed. His
out - cast Whom all the great de - spise, And
lifts Him A - bove all crowns and kings, And



throne will be a cross - beam On which for us He'll bleed.
then up - on a hill - top With thieves He hangs and dies.
now to Him, "Ho - san - na!" The whole cre - a - tion sings!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in true faith unto life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L Let us pray: Merciful God,

C **accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of Baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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 favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

"No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet" (LSB 444)

Postlude

Toccata on "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" (Gilbert M. Martin)

† † †

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher

Welcome & Children's Message

Lay Assistant

Communion Lay Assistant

Organist/Pianist

Acolyte

Crucifer

Ushers

Altar Care

AV Operators

Welcome Host

Nursery

Pastor Meehan

Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Chuck Fosse

Rich Keppers

David Leahey, Director of Music

Charlotte Hills

Sofi Hills

Jim Lofgren

Barbara Pate

Jean Gilbertson

Greg Auld

Andrea Godwin

Jan Swicord

Beth Rempe



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by donations to the flower fund.

SCAN HERE TO



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...AND MORE!

Acknowledgments

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Toccata on "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" – Gilbert M. Martin (2008 Sacred Music Press, a division of the Lorenz Corporation) All rights reserved.

2026 Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

NOTE: livestreaming available for service times with an *

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday

7:00PM* - Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
Anniversary of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

12 Noon – Stations of the Cross – No Communion
7:00PM* - Passiontide Lessons and Carols - No Communion
The most solemn day of the Christian year gives thanks to God for the life-giving death of Jesus upon the tree of the cross.

Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter

7:00PM*- Holy Communion
One of the most beautiful and moving services of the entire year. We light the new fire of Easter outside, process into the darkened sanctuary for the service of readings, celebrate Holy Baptism, and conclude with receiving the risen Savior in the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, April 5 - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

8:00AM & 10:30AM* -Holy Communion

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Our joy at Jesus' victory of sin, death, and the grave overflows on this blessed Easter morning! A brass ensemble will provide glorious music to lead us in singing praises to our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Between the worship services, Easter breakfast will be offered as well as egg hunts for children.

For Easter Sunday, remember to bring spring flowers to "flower" the cross in the church entrance.



St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

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Director of Music	David Leahey
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