

# **Passion/Palm Sunday**

March 29, 2026

***\*Congregation will assemble outside in front of the narthex.***

***An usher will distribute palm crosses and a copy of the worship outline.***

## **Processional Gospel: Matthew 21: 1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "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."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The 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!"

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Blessing of the palm crosses**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.  
We praise you, O God,  
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Today he entered the holy city in triumph  
and was proclaimed messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Bless these crosses 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.  
**Amen.**

## **Processional Song – All Glory, Laud, and Honor** **– ELW 344 (vs. 1-4)**

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.

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

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

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
to you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

***(Inside the sanctuary with everyone seated.)***

***Please respect the sanctity of worship and turn off all cell phones.  
Thank you.***

## **For the Gathered**

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

## **Greeting – ELW 147**

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

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, 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.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading – Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>The 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 awakens—  
awakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

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

<sup>6</sup>I 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.

<sup>7</sup>The 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;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 31: 9-16**

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I **am** in trouble;

**my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat <sup>and</sup> and my belly.**

<sup>10</sup>For my life is wasted with grief, and my <sup>years</sup> years with sighing;

**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones <sup>are</sup> are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to <sup>my</sup> my acquaintances;

**when they see me in the street <sup>they</sup> they avoid me.**

<sup>12</sup>Like the dead I am forgotten, <sup>out of</sup> out of mind;

**I am as useless as a <sup>broken</sup> broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is <sup>all</sup> all around;

**they put their heads together against me; they plot to <sup>take</sup> take my life.**

<sup>14</sup>But as for me, I have trusted in <sup>you,</sup> you, O LORD.

**I have said, "You <sup>are</sup> are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are <sup>in</sup> in your hand; **rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who <sup>persecute</sup> persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- <sup>on</sup> on your servant;

**save me in your <sup>steadfast</sup> steadfast love."**

## **Epistle Reading – Philippians 2: 5-11**

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Message for the Young at Heart**

### **Passing of the Peace**

### **Special Music**

## **Gospel Announcement – Matthew 27:11-54**

*(All who are able may stand.)*

### **Acclamation – ELW 151**

**(ALL SING) - Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

<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!"

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

<sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

<sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for

Elijah.”<sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.<sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”<sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.<sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.<sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.<sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Assembly may be seated.)*

## **Message**

*(All who are able may stand.)*

## **Hymn of the Day – Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross – ELW 335 (vs. 1, 2, & 4)**

Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

### *Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

## **Nicene Creed - ELW 104**

**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 Holy Spirit and 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,**

*(Assembly may be seated.)*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Response*

(Liturgist) – Hear us, O God.

**(All) – Your mercy is great.**

## **Offering**

### **Offertory - We Are An Offering – W&P 146**

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.  
We are an offering.

### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.  
God our provider, 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.**

### **Great Thanksgiving – ELW 152**

**(Pastor)** - The Lord be with you.  
**(All)** - **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.**

### **Pastor's 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,  
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 their unending hymn:

### **Our Response – ELW 153**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n 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.**

## **Lord's Prayer – ELW 154**

**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**

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, 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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# **Distribution**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

*(All who are able may stand.)*

## **Sending Song – Prepare the Royal Highway – ELW 264**

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 may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: *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*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
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(Assembly may be seated.)

## **Announcements**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Passion-Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026**

PASTOR	John Russell-Curry
GREETER	Mona Kowalczyk
READER/ASSISTING MINISTER	Bronwen Maxson
USHERS	Alan Arnold
ORGANIST/PIANIST	Martin Hansen

**This Week**

TODAY	<b>10 AM</b> Worship No Lenten Bible Study <b>After Service</b> Palm Sunday Luncheon
FRIDAY	<b>10 AM</b> Maundy Thurs./Good Friday Service <b>2 PM</b> Knitting Club
SATURDAY	<b>9 AM</b> Church Clean-Up

***Readings for Sunday, April 5***

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43;  
Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

***Attendance for last week 36 and via Zoom 5***

**Upcoming Events – Mark your Calendar**

**April 5 Worship Service –Easter Sunday**

**April 10 Knitting Club**

**April 12 Worship Service**

**Prayers for healing:**

Tom Stephens; Gleneda Muralt; Dorothy Woody; Rosie Sullivan; Eric Smith; Gleneda Muralt's niece, Shereida; Nan Dailey; Kimberly Castillo's daughter Jillian and mother-in-law Lupe; Pam Andersen; Pastor John Russell-Curry and his family; Warren Westerberg; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Annie Sofranek; David Cherf; and people who are ill around the world.

We lift prayers for our Benevolence of the Month, **Love, INC** and for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop, **Jeff Johnson**.