

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

March 28-29, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

PALM SUNDAY



PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

FROM PALMS TO PASSION:

Jesus shows His true love for you

("No greater love than a man lay down His life for his friends.")

AS WE GATHER

Today we are brought to the threshold of Holy Week. This was the day the Jewish people chose the Passover Lamb. How quickly things can change in a week! On this Palm Sunday, we see Jesus enter Jerusalem with palms, a symbol of victory, strewn in the road and being waved. Yet it was from that entry that Jesus went to show His true love—His passion—by dying on the cross on Friday. That death showed His love for you. By faith, we believe what Jesus did was for us. Everything about us—our sin, our eternal destination—changed that week because Jesus took the road from palms to passion. Receive what Jesus did for you by faith, knowing your home in heaven was paid for with the King's ransom—His own blood.

PRELUDE "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

Two Settings by Paul Manz

PASTORAL GREETING

✠ PROCESSION OF PALMS ✠

(Worship Notes: "Hosanna" means "Save us, we pray.")

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY

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

People: **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL *John 12:12–19*

(The triumphal entry)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: 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,

People: **"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"**

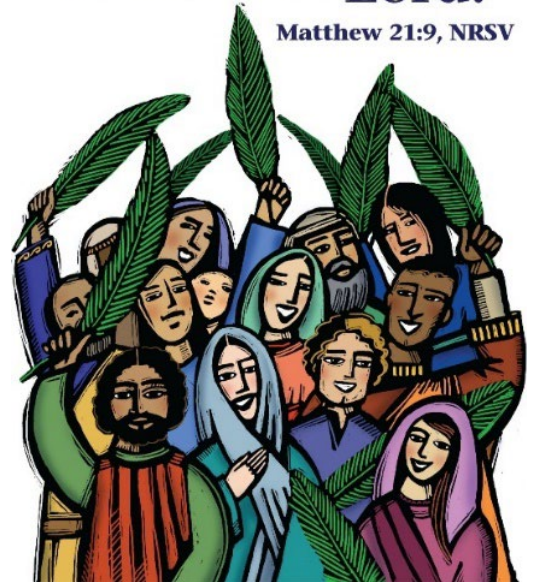
Pastor: And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

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

Pastor: 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

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

Matthew 21:9, NRSV



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,

People: “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

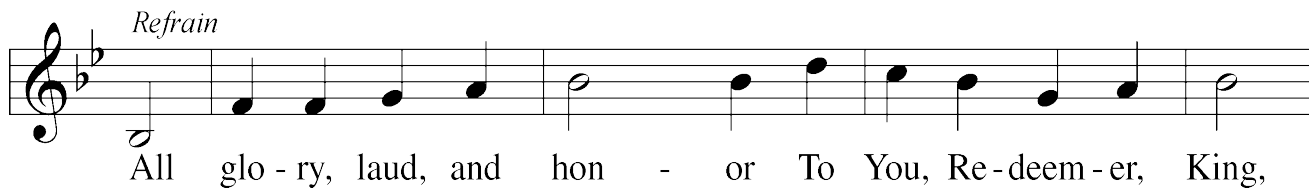
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace.

People: in the name of the Lord.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LSB 442





✠ PREPARATION ✠

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We confess before You, Lord, that we have sinned against You.

People: **We have sinned not only against You but one another, with what we have thought, what we have said, and by what we have or have not done.**

Pastor: We unseat You and put ourselves on the throne that belongs only to You.

People: **Our pride in these and all sins deserves Your punishment, yet today we approach Your throne of grace, asking for Your mercy.**

Pastor: So I ask you now: are you sincere in this, your confession before God, and promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? If so, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

People: **Yes, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday to show His love for you at the cross. At the cross, He showed His passion for you by dying for your sins and paying the price we could not pay. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen! Thank You, Lord, for Your passion for us.**

INTROIT *Psalm 24:7–10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26*

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

Women: *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

Men: *Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!*

Women: *Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

Men: *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!*

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

HYMN (4:00) "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

LSB 441
Verses 1-2, 5

CHORAL ANTHEM (8:00 & 10:30) "Sing to the Lord Hosanna" Patrick Liebergen
Ascension Chorale



✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a
(The servant's obedience)

**The 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.**

**The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.**

**I 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.**

**But 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.
He 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.**

**Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?**

**Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
(Christ's example of humility)

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 emptied himself, by 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

Lenten Verse *(Philippians 2:8b)*

Pastor: Scripture says,

People: **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**



Holy Gospel: John 12:20-43

(Jesus speaks of the death by which He will die.)

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves me.

“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

**Lord, who has believed our message
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

**He has blinded their eyes
And deadened their hearts,
So they can neither see with their eyes,
Nor understand with their hearts,
Nor turn – and I would heal them.”**

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.





Creedal Song

"In God We Believe"

AGPS 136



1 In God we be - lieve: the Cre - a - tor whose pow'r
2 In Je - sus, the Sav - ior, our hope is se - cured.
3 God's Spir - it at work in our lives we con - fess;



In mer - cy has brought us for wor - ship this hour.
True God and true man once the cross He en - dured
With pow - er and truth the Church now He does bless.



He gra - cious - ly grants us our years and our days
To grant our lives whole - ness, for - give - ness of sin.
As saints, God's for - giv - en, one day we shall then



And bless - es with kind - ness our work and our ways.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace with - in.
Be liv - ing in glo - ry for - ev - er. A - men.

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Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (collected in the back at 4:00 and 10:30)

Offering Music (8:00) "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet"

Michael Burkhardt

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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.**



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

Michael Burkhardt

Hymn

“There is a Redeemer”

LS Builder 971



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.



Refrain
Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

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Hymn

“The Lamb”

LSB 547

General Communion Blessing

Benediction

(Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**



Closing Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

LSB 443

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Michael Burkhardt

SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT

CHOIR DIRECTOR

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

ELDERS

4 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 8 a.m. David Pearman; 10:30 am. Michael Lawrenz

ACOLYTES

8 a.m. Ellise Friend; 10:30 a.m. Parker Aldrich

LECTORS

4 p.m. Curt Engle; 8 a.m. Tom Munson; 10:30 a.m. Jackie Warren

COMMUNION SERVER

4:00 p.m. Curt Engle; 10:30 a.m. Jackie Warren

ALTAR GUILD

Tanya Schmitt, Cathy Utecht, Charmaine Rohde

Pastor John Larson

Stephanie Roettjer

Michael Zehnder

Diana Gaide



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