

Year A

Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion

Joint service of Holy Communion

*Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Stuttgart
Zion Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg*



March 29, 2026, at 10:30 am

Zion Lutheran Church
Phillipsburg, KS

Introduction to the day

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.

Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion begins Holy Week, which is the transition from Lent to Easter. Many have known today as simply "Palm Sunday." Prior to the liturgical and lectionary reforms of the last fifty years, the only Holy Week reading of our Lord's Passion, meaning the story of Jesus' suffering and death, was on Good Friday and often only from John's Gospel. Combining Palm Sunday with Passion Sunday contrasts the cheering crowds as Jesus enters Jerusalem with the jeering crowds as Jesus is dying on the cross. It also allows all four passion accounts to be read during worship with Matthew, Mark, and Luke being read in a three-year cycle and John continuing to be reserved for Good Friday.

The color for Passion Sunday and Holy Week is scarlet, representing the blood of Christ. However, continuing the use of purple from Lent is also appropriate as many congregations do not have scarlet paraments. Holy Week concludes with the Triduum (the Three Days) of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil, which was traditionally the time of baptizing new Christians.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assembly is invited to stand as able.

GATHERING SONG – *Prepare the Royal Highway* (ELW #264)

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Assembly is invited to sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Assembly is invited to stand as able.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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.”

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

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹ 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 PALMS *(ELW Passion Sunday)*

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 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.

Amen.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

GATHERING SONG – *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW #344)

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

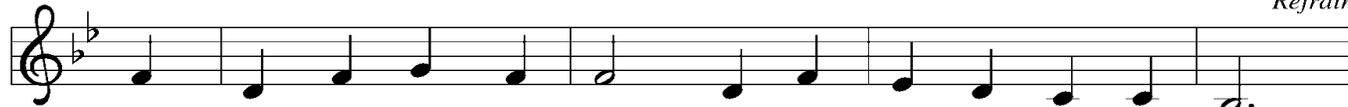


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(ELW Passion Sunday)*

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Silence is kept.

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.

Assembly is invited to be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
a trained tongue,
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.

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

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?

Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**
I am as useless as a broken pot.
¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.**
I have said, “You are my God.
¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
¹⁶ **Let your face shine upon your servant;**
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

- ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Assembly is invited to stand as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (ELW #347)



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

*Due to the length of the reading, the assembly is invited to be seated until indicated
The Congregation is invited to respond in unison to the dialogue in **BOLD***

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests
¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty
pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to
betray him.

¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸ He
said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time
is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” ¹⁹ So the
disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, ²¹ and while
they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they
became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I,
Lord?” ²³ He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me
will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by
whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to
have been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He
replied, “You have said so.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he
broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he
took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of
you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the
forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until
that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it
is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

³² “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter said to him,
“Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴ Jesus said to him,
“Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three

times.”³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated.³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.”⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?”⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.”⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.⁵¹ Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword.⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?”⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.⁵⁸ But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were

looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ” ⁶² The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” ⁶³ But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of Power
and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?” They answered,

“He deserves death.” ⁶⁷

Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, ⁶⁸ saying,

“Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” ⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” ⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

^{27:1} When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. ² They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

³ When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴ He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See

to it yourself.”⁵ Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”⁷ After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners.⁸ For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price,¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

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

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas.¹⁷ 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?”¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.¹⁹ 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.”²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said,

“Barabbas.”

²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said,

“Let him be crucified!”²³ Then he asked,

“Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more,

“Let him be crucified!”

²⁴ 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.”²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered,

“His blood be on us and on our children!”

²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

The assembly is invited to stand as able.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ 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!”

³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read,

“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸ Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ 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.”

⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

⁴² **“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. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ”**

⁴⁴ The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

⁴⁶ 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?” ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

“This man is calling for Elijah.”

⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ But the others said,

“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

A moment of silence is observed

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ 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!”

⁵⁵ Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

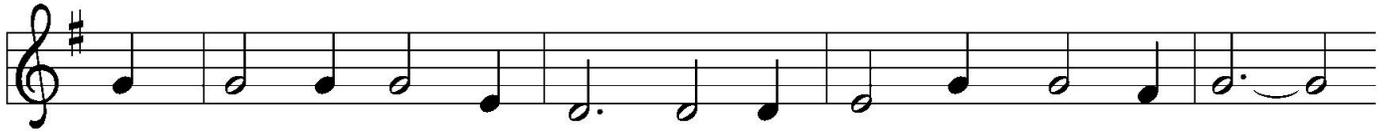
⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

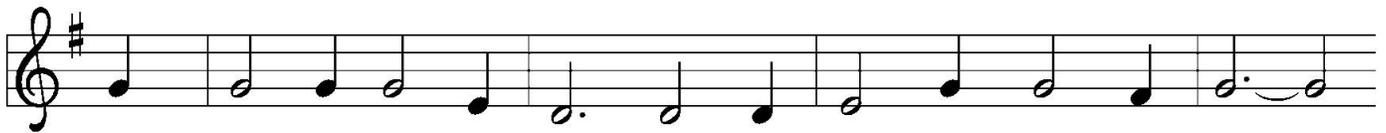
The Passion of Our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (ELW #351)

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Assembly is invited to stand as able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Adapted from Sundays & Seasons)*

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

PEACE *(ELW page 152; LBW page 86)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is invited to remain standing.

OFFERTORY: Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am (ELW #814)



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

OFFERING PRAYER *(From Sundays and Seasons)*

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(ELW page 152; LBW page 88)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

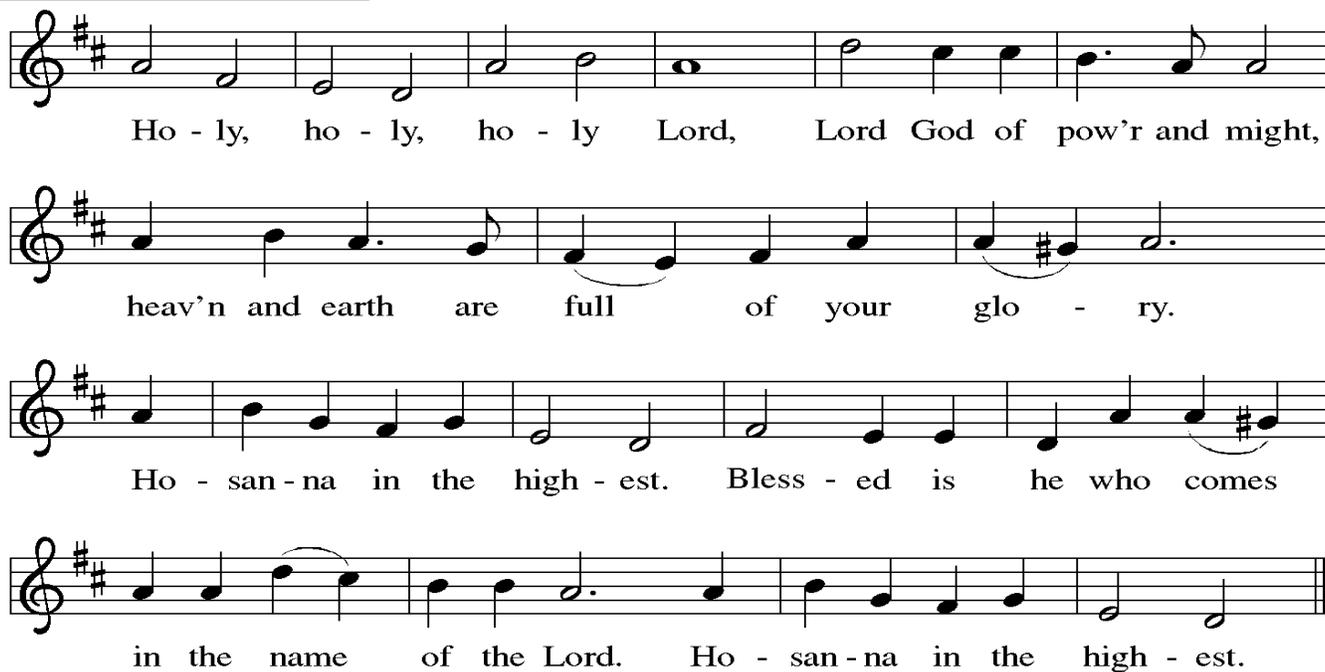
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*) (LBW setting 2; ELW setting 4)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW page 133)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With [...] your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(ELW page 154; LBW page 91)*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(from Sundays & Seasons)*

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*) (LBW setting 2; ELW setting 4)



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



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Assembly is invited to sit.

COMMUNION SONG - *Lamb of God; Your Only Son* (ELW #336)

Assembly is invited to stand as able.

After all have communed, the presiding minister may continue with this or similar words: (LBW page 92)

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*from Sundays & Seasons*)

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING (*Adapted from Sundays & Seasons*)

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

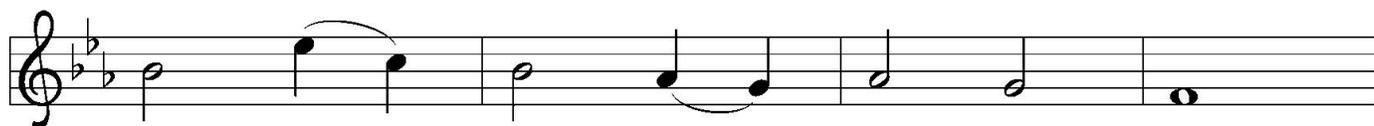
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Beautiful Savior* (ELW #838)

Beautiful Savior



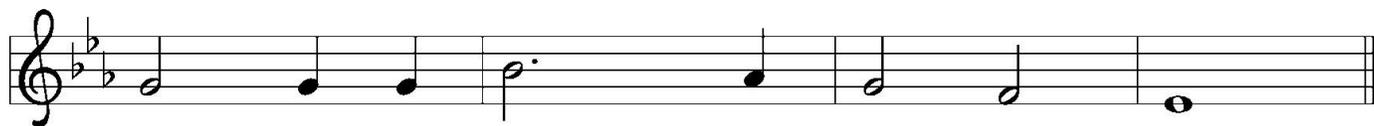
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

DISMISSAL (from *ELW & LBW Ash Wednesday*)

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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LESSER FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 - Sunday, March 29, 2026

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631 - Tuesday, March 31, 2026

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589 -Saturday, April 4, 2026

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

EMMANUEL & ZION PRAYER LIST

Sick, injured, or grieving: Raymond Hanes, Janet Conn, Jessica Gooder, Terry McCall, Eldon Preuss, Troy Blubaugh, Mindy Horner Lamont, and Baby Henry.

Military - Jared Dillon, Jessica Kreller, Bryan Lenker, Anthony Swarts, Major Monica Riggs, Brady Sunley, Col. Lisa Mullinax, and Col. Mark Mullinax,

Homebound or in care facilities: Jean Daniels, Sharon Krafft, Ehrhart Merklein, Dorothy Hanke, Norma Preuss, Ray & Donna Zillinger, Betty Zillinger, Wilma Beckman, and Connie Winter.

TO ADD PRAYERS: *If you wish to add someone to the printed prayer list, please confirm that the person consents to be on a public list.* Then please email or call Janice Giedd at jgiedd@ruraltel.net or (785) 543-6705. Please make sure the person being added consents to being on a public prayer list. Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless otherwise notified. If you wish to have an emergency prayer request sent over text, please contact Pastor Lee Bennight: pastorleebennight@gmail.com (785) 302-1923 or Pastor Kathy at kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com or (785) 302-1876.

ZION & EMMANUEL COMBINED CALENDAR

Sunday, March 29 – Passion (Palm) Sunday (Year A)

- 10:30 am – Combined Palm Sunday worship at Zion
- After worship - Potluck
- 2:00 pm – PCRC Holy Communion Worship

Wednesday, April 1

- 5:00 pm – Holy Communion Class at Emmanuel

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday worship at Emmanuel

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday

- 7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship at Zion

Saturday, April 4 – Holy Saturday

- 8:00 pm – Easter Vigil at Zion

Sunday, April 5 – The Resurrection of Our Lord (Year A)

- 7:00 am – Sunrise Services at Emmanuel Cemetery
- 7:30 am – Emmanuel Easter Breakfast
- 7:40 am – Sunrise Service at Zion Cemetery
- 9:00 am – Easter Holy Communion Service at Zion
- 10:30 am – Easter Holy Communion Service at Emmanuel

| | ZION WORSHIP SERVERS | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | TODAY Sunday (03/29/26) <i>PASSION SUNDAY</i> (Palm Sunday) At 10:30 am | Sunday (04/05/26) <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> <i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> At 9:00 am | Sunday (04/12/26) <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> At 9:00 am |
| Presiding Minister | Pastor Lee | Pastor Lee | Pastor Kathy |
| Lector /Reader | Sue Kipp | Katie Grote | Christi Driggs |
| Acolyte | Volunteer | Corbin & Easton Grote | Volunteer |
| Musicians | Jean Ann Wagner | Jean Ann Wagner | Jean Ann Wagner |
| Sound System / Media | Dennis Keesee | Benny Bennight | Shellie Lare |
| Greeters | Keesee Family | Jeff & Tamra Griffey | Melvin & Grace Grau |
| Ushers | Dennis Keesee | Nathaniel Grote | Howard King |
| Altar Guild | Pat & Marci Rust | Steven & Cesha Rust | Steven & Cesha Rust |

| EMMANUEL WORSHIP SERVERS | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Sunday (03/29/26) <i>PASSION SUNDAY</i> <i>(Palm Sunday)</i> <i>At 10:30 am</i> | Sunday (04/05/26) <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> <i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> <i>At 9:00 am</i> | Sunday (04/12/26) <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> <i>At 9:00 am</i> |
| Presiding Minister | COMBINED WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN IN PHILLIPSBURG 10:30 am. POTLUCK TO FOLLOW. | Pastor Lee | Pastor Kathy |
| Assisting Minister | | Amy Stephen | Sue Jackson |
| Lector /Reader | | Brock Johnson | Alyssa Stites |
| Acolyte | | Wyatt Terry | Carter & Cordell Dusin |
| Musicians | | Patsy Maddy | Patsy Maddy |
| Sound System / Media | | Emmanuel Council | Emmanuel Council |
| Greeters | | Amy Stephen | TBA |
| Bell Ringer | | Volunteer | Volunteer |
| Altar Guild | | Jane Kirchhoff & Alyssa Stites | Jane Kirchhoff & Alyssa Stites |

PASTOR CONTACTS

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- Rev. Kathy Whitney, (785) 302-1876, kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com
- PMA Candidate Andrea Keesee, (785) 533-2723, akeesee@nex-tech.com