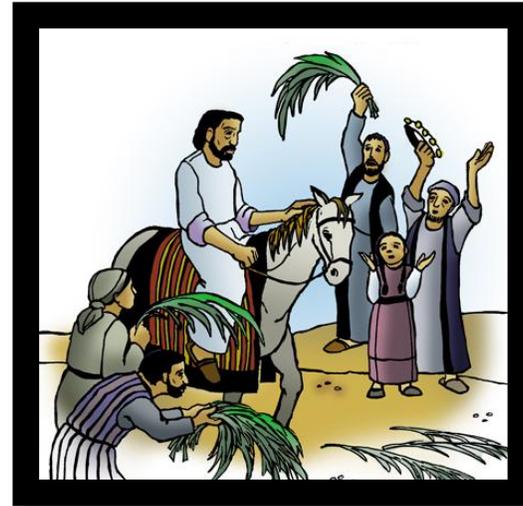


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The audio for worship will be muted until worship begins

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Pastor

March 29, 2026 – 10:00 AM

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY



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Acclamation

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to _____.
Glory to you, O God.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.
God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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.**

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

Gathering Song

Pave the Way with Branches – No. 928

Vs. 1

Jesus is coming.

Pave the way with branches.

Jesus is coming. Hosanna. *Repeat*

Hosanna, Jesus is coming.

Hosanna to the Prince of peace. *Repeat*

Additional verses ad lib

Release for the captives . . .

Hope for the downtrod . . .

Land for the landless . . .

Debts are forgiven . . .

All glory, laud, and honor – No. 344

Refrain

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

Vs. 1

**You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain***

**Vs. 2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. *Refrain***

Vs. 3

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

Vs. 4

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

Vs. 5

**Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain***

Psalm 31:9-16

Refrain: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I ^l am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat ^l and my belly.

¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my ^l years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones ^l are consumed.**

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay
to ^l my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street ^l they avoid me.

¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, ^l out of mind;
I am as useless as a ^l broken pot. R**

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 up- | on your servant;**

save me in your | steadfast love." R

Refrain: I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope.

Lenten Acclamation

**Let your steadfast love strengthen us,
O God. Save us as you promised.
We will trust your word.
Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.**

Dramatic Gospel Reading

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.”

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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.”

**Eat this bread, drink this cup. Trust in me and never go hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup. Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

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."

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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.

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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.

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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."

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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!**"

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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.

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. 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.

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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. 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!”**

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Moment of Silence

Hymn of the Day

My Song is Love Unknown – vs. 1 solo

Vs. 1

**My song is love unknown—
my Savior's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

Vs. 2

**He came from His blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend!**

Vs. 3

**Sometimes they strew His way,
and His sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.**

Vs. 4

**Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run;
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst Him rise.**

Prayers of the People

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

Peace Sharing

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



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Offering Song

Thy Will Be Done - J. E. Eilers - choir anthem

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Sanctus

**Holy Holy Holy
O God of hoasts
Heav'n and earth are
full of your glory**

Thanksgiving Prayer

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth
as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs
What feast of love— No. 487

Vs. 1

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Vs. 2

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven? What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given? This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven. Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

Vs. 3

**What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!**

Thee We Adore, O Savior— No. 476

Vs. 1

**Thee we adore, O Savior, God most true,
thy glory clothed in bread and wine anew;
our hearts to thee in true devotion bow,
in humble awe, we hail thy presence now.**

Vs. 2

**O true remembrance of Christ crucified,
the bread of life to us for whom he died;
lend us this life then; feed and feast our mind,
be thou the sweetness we were meant to find.**

Vs. 3

**Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God,
cleanse us, O Christ, with thy most cleansing blood:
increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.**

Vs. 4

**Jesus, by faith we see thee here below;
send us, we pray thee, what we thirst for so:
someday to gaze upon thy face in light,
blest evermore with thy full glory's sight. Amen.**

Stay With Me – No. 348

Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

Sending Song
There in God's garden— No. 1086

Vs. 1

**There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.**

Vs. 2

**Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches see the scars of suff'ring;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.**

Vs. 3

**Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.**

Vs. 4

**See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."**

Vs. 5

**This is my ending, this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.**

Vs. 6

**All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion offers in
mercy healing, strength, and pardon. Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!**

Worship Leaders and Assistants

Assisting Minister: Ben Lukenchuk

Kantor: Nathan McDonald

Musician: Karen Johnson-Lefsrud

Choral Scholars: DJ McGrath, Madison Blackman

Livestream: Christopher McDonald

Communion: Jane Wicksteed, Irene Baty

Ushers: Laura Cochrane, Bob Kohert

*You are invited to Holy Communion Worship, Sundays,
10 AM PT in-person and online.*

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