

Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026
10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: 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.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastors Lisa Rygiel, Becky McNeil & John & Charlotte Strecker-Baseler

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Mark Nelson

Ushers – David Novey & John Rygiel

Communion – Kathy Broman & Kathy Humphrey



Worship & Music: In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. We use both the cranberry book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

Communion: We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

Other: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. All are welcome!

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Acclamation

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

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ When they had come near... "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

Blessing of Palms

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ....who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Processional

Processional Hymn: All Glory, Laud and Honor



Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

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.**

~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The 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.

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

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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; ⁸he 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?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have 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.**

¹¹I 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66 (Pew Bible page 808)

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter 26. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴ One of the twelve...⁶⁶ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

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

Children's Message

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #342 (cranberry hymnal) There in God's Garden

The Nicene Creed

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, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally including ELCA Bishop Curry and Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Meghan and for clergy everywhere who advocate for mercy, justice, and inclusion. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place and build your beloved community among all people. Guide elected officials, judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day especially...

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Peace

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

As evident through all of creation, God has given freely to us as we freely give now.

You can give via check or cash, by mail to 510 Pine Street, or online at:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741.

Our 5th Sunday Offering will benefit Trinidad's Soup Kitchen. You can place those donations in the offering baskets.

Offertory: #323 (cranberry hymnal) God Loved the World, vs. 2

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these 40 days -- Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

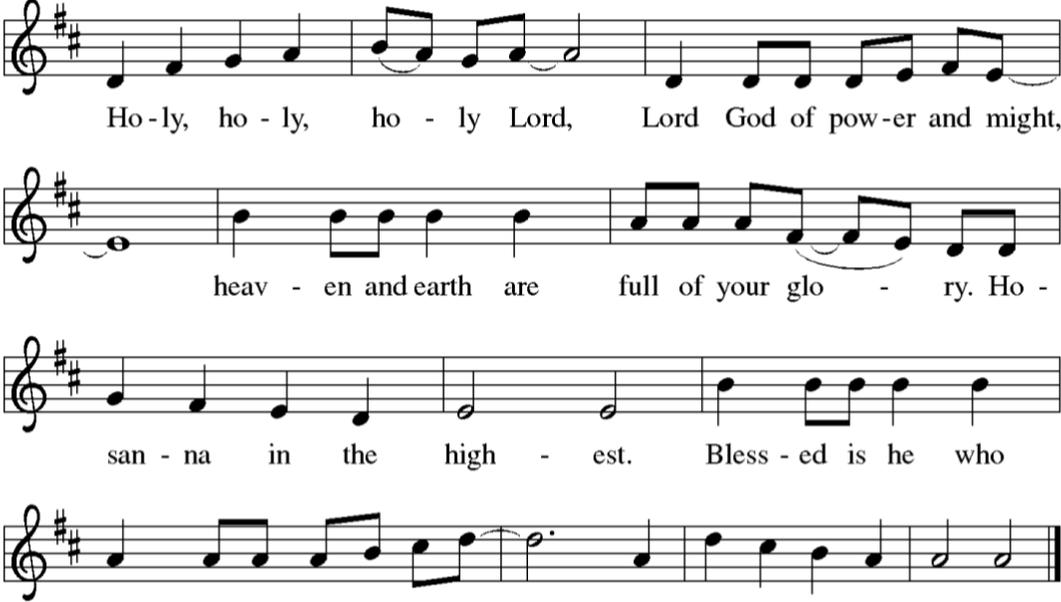
The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...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. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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...now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available. God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.

Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.

Communion Hymn: #343 (cranberry hymnal) My Song is Love Unknown

Communion Song: Lamb of God

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.

Communion Prayer

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

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.**

Sending Hymn: #338 (cranberry hymnal) Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Dismissal

Go in peace to seek justice for all people. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

- + **Fellowship:** Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.
- + **Wednesday Book Club:** The Wednesday Book Club is focusing upon *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*. It meets at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
- + **Thank You Notes:** We are grateful to all who helped prepare and deliver 5-Loaves meals for March. We provided 279 meals to 153 individuals and families. Also, thank you to everyone who pitched in with our clean-up day for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, as we prepare for Easter.
- + **Lenten Soup Suppers:** The final soup supper for this Lenten season is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 1 in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Good Friday:** Zion's Good Friday worship service will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 3, This is a time when we gather in solemn devotion as we anticipate the culmination of the three days that are the Easter vigil.
- + **Easter Sunday Worship:** We gather for Easter Worship at 10 a.m. next Sunday, followed by a special Easter brunch. Our main dishes are planned, so please sign up to bring side dishes and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Children's Choir:** Choir practice is at 3 p.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Time of Prayer and Coffee:** We are invited to join our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church for a time of prayer and coffee at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday at Kangaroo Coffee -- in the Marketplace on Commercial Street.
- + **God's Work Our Hands:** Terri Watson is coordinating efforts to match people who are able to provide outreach and support to members of our congregation who need assistance, such as rides and errands. For more information talk to Terri or use the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **The Way Ministry:** At 1 p.m. today Zion's welcomes The Way ministry to our Fellowship Hall as they offer food and worship to those in need.
- + **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com.

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