



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION ~ PALM SUNDAY
March 29, 2026

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
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Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

Reverend Godfred Effisah
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Office hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING OUTSIDE "WEATHER PERMITTING"

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

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This 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." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

BLESSING OF PALMS

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.**

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All, Glory, Laud and Honor” **ELW 344**

Everyone is encouraged to wave their palms during the hymn.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

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 awakens, awakens 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

READ RESPONSIVELY

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

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus’ obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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.

POEM “Palm Sunday”

8:00 am Patrick Creek, Liam Creek

10:00 am Bella Sailhamer, Evan Kyle

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. (Phil. 2:8-9)

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 26:1- -
27:66**

Glory to you, O Lord.

Please remain seated for the Reading of the Passion.

PASSION NARRATIVE READERS (8:00 am service / 10:00 am service)

Narrator

Jeff Cox

Jeff Cox

Jesus

Pastor Godfred

Pastor Godfred

Judas

Olivia Creek

Linda Basler

Peter

Toryn Wilson

Susan Lyons

Witness Noah Varner
High Priest Robert Creek
Servant Lillian Creek
Pilate Abram Luffy

Linda Basler
John Cox
Sofia Kyle
Liam Kyle

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

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY “*The Palms*”

Senior Choir
Congregation will join in singing verse 2

Verse 2:

*Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem, Of all Thy songs
sing the emancipation. Through boundless love, the Christ of
Bethlehem*

Brings forth the hope to Thee forevermore.

Join all and sing, His name declare,

Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation. Hosanna! Praise be the Lord!

Bess Him who cometh to bring us salvation!

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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,

and was made man.

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.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

**He 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 INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Eternal Father, you invite each of us to share in the life and ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to transform our faith family into a community of disciples. In this year of discipleship, teach us how to listen to Jesus, to love Jesus deeply, and to share Jesus with everyone we meet. Through the Holy Spirit, guide us to deepen our commitment as disciples of Jesus. Lead us, we pray, to grow as an intentional community, committed to our call to discipleship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heavenly Father, from one generation to another, women have played a special role in your church. So, we lift up every woman in your church before you. Strengthen them through your word and the Holy Spirit to be the women you desire them to be. Graciously fill them with your wisdom, courage, and compassion, enabling them to stand boldly in their calling and to deeply understand their worth and value in your eyes. 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for (*Hans Nielsen Hauge and*) 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

The Ushers will collect the offering.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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 these 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.

THE 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.

PREFACE - PALM SUNDAY

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For, though innocent, he suffered willingly for sinners and accepted unjust condemnation to save the guilty. His Death has washed away our sins, and his Resurrection has purchased our justification. And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Read Together

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.**

LAMB OF GOD

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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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those invited to the supper of the Lamb. **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

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 *"Christ, the Life of All the Living"*

ELW 339

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

POSTLUDE *"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"*

- Burkhardt

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.



**Mary Kay Dagenhart
Doug & Pat Maun
Jeanne Naugle
Dorothy Railing**

**Trina Ruth
Wayne Widney
All Caregivers**



**Pastor
Pastor Godfred Effisah**

**Organist & Pianist
Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Senior Choir / Bell Choir
Director
Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator
Amy Piper**



Check out our church website using this QR Code!