



**Palm Sunday
Holy Communion
March 29, 2026: 9:30 a.m.**

**Shalom Lutheran Church, ELCA
681 Voyager Drive — Alexandria, MN 56308
www.shalomlutheran.org
(320) 762-8641**

Pastor—David Fleener
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“We believe God is calling us to invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ, that they may discover true peace and be prepared to follow Him in compassionate service”

GATHERING

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Weather permitting, the service will begin outside under the drive-up. Otherwise, we will begin in the narthex.

PASTORAL GREETING

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: Hosanna in the highest!

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

C: And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-17

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

"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."

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

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer,'
but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

The congregation raises their palm branches.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us go in peace.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Those who are seated may stand. Those processing follow the ministers inside.

PROCESSIONAL 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Book of Common Prayer*

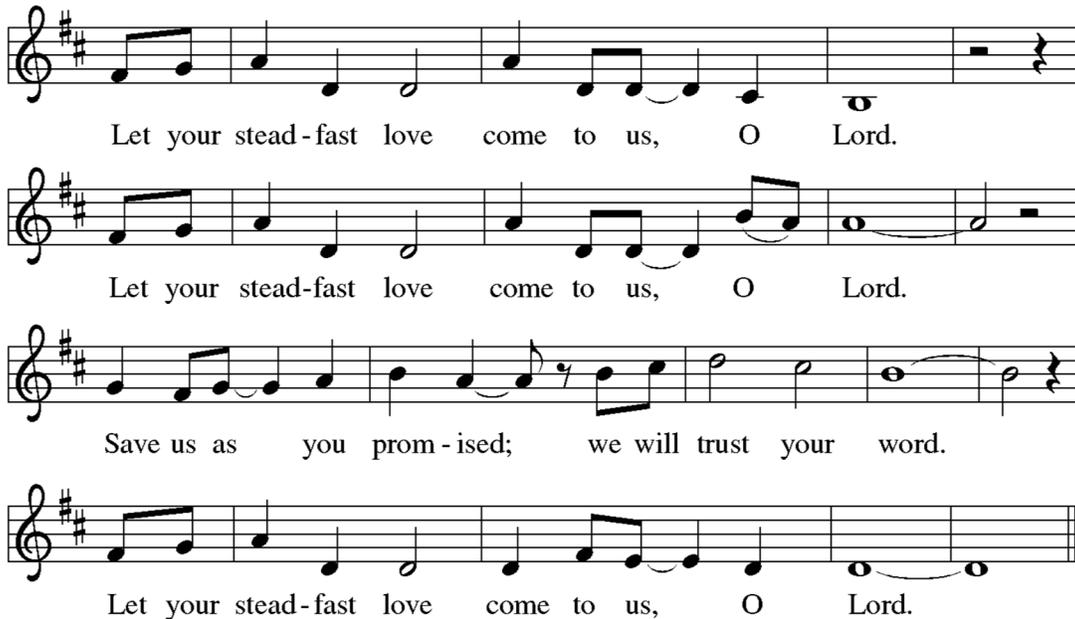
P: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL WELCOME

ELW Setting 8



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

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

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

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The congregation may be seated

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

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. 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?” For he realized that it

was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 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." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" 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." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 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; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

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

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 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?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This

man is calling for Elijah.” 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. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 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!”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“A Little Child Will Lead Them”

Pastor David Fleener

NOISY OFFERING

SERMON “Who Is This?”

Pastor David Fleener

The congregation may stand.

SONG OF THE DAY "Jesus Messiah" Chris Tomlin

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Chorus

Ending

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition:

A: Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

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

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING *Offering baskets will be passed. If you prefer to give digitally, you can scan the QR code to give. White cards to place in the plate are available in the guest pad for those who give digitally.*



MUSICAL OFFERING "By The Mark" Gillian Welch

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: 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.

C: Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: 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

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

**C: 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.**

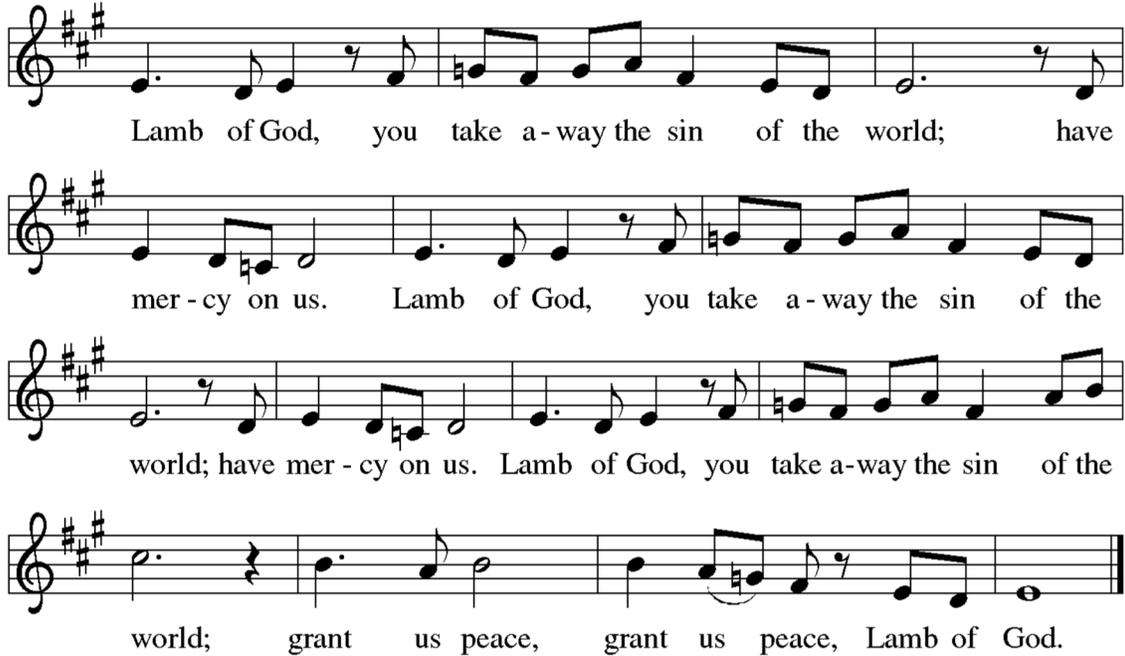
COMMUNION INVITATION

P: Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The congregation may be seated

LAMB OF GOD *ELW Setting 8*



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, Lamb of God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Healing is In Your Hands" Christy Nockels

The congregation may stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

A: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG "The Wonderful Cross" Chris Tomlin

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Verse 2

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Chorus

O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live
O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name

Verse 3

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all

Chorus

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Week of Mar 29, 2026

Church Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Welcome to our Shalom gathering! All God's children are welcome here, especially our guests, whoever you are or wherever you come from. We invite you to sign the guest pad in your row and hope you'll join us for refreshments after worship in the Community Room. If you have any questions about Shalom or how we worship, please ask our greeters and ushers (wearing name tags). You may also contact Pastor David. If you can't catch him after worship, you may call the office at (320) 762-8461 or email him at pastor@shalomlutheran.org.

COMMUNION: Lutherans believe that Christ's true body and blood is present in Holy Communion, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. All baptized Christians who trust these words of promise are welcome to receive communion today. Children under the guidance of their parents or caregivers may also receive. Those who do not receive may come forward with arms crossed over their chest for a blessing. To receive communion, come forward to receive the bread from the pastor. Gluten-free bread is also available in small containers by the individual communion cups. You may take a cup from the tray by the pastor, then move to either the wine or grape juice chalice. The wine chalice is first, the grape juice chalice is second. Wine or grape juice will be poured into your cup. There will be a basket for used cups. Those who cannot come forward for communion are asked to inform the ushers so that communion may be brought to them.

HOSPITALITY servers for April 5, Sue Engstrom, Judy Hoffman, Pam McCormick, cinnamon roll Sunday.

PRAYER VIGIL: Shalom is holding a Prayer Vigil again this year on Saturday, April 4 from 6:00 pm to midnight. Please come anytime to offer prayers of petition or praise and thanks. We all know the power of prayer; come offer yours. It is a moving experience.

WELCA: NW MN synodical Women's organization 2026 Conference 8 Spring Gathering. This year hosted by Bethesda Lutheran Church in Alexandria. The gathering is Saturday April 18th. Registration and fellowship is at 8:15-9:00, the cost for noon lunch is \$20.00 per person. Registration deadline is April 6th. Send Registration and fees to Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1204 N Nokomis St NE, Alexandria.

COME JOIN the Shalom Singers and friends on April 12 at 1 pm for "A Journey to the Cross", an hour-long program of music featuring Robert Lau's cantata *The Cross*. A freewill offering will be taken to support Love Inc.

Did you know? God's Work Our Hands has two spring projects. In March we are filling the cleaning buckets for Love INC. And in April our Faith Build for Habitat for Humanity is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21. A "RagTag Army for Jesus" build team is forming, and you can take part! Contact Catherine S Kliever to get the link to sign up.

DEDICATION of a PRAYER QUILT on March 25, 2026

This Prayer Quilt Ministry combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. As each knot is tied, silent prayers are said for the special recipient, who will receive the finished quilt. There can never be too many prayers (knots) tied to a quilt. Knots on top of knots can be tied. The Prayer Quilt Ministry motto: *"It's not about the quilts, it is all about the prayers."*

KIM CASAVAN: Kim was diagnosed with breast cancer in the early stages.

Prayers are requested for: ***comfort and healing***

Sponsors: friends, Linda Fenelon, CJ *Please remove the quilt after worship and give to the recipient.*

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

*John & Carrie Carlberg, *Bob Hildebrandt, *Dave & Mary Owen, *Gerry Kingsburg, *Delores Martin, *Evie Raguse, *Charles & Jeanne Tanksley, Teri Market, *Jeanette Priebe, *Bonnie Anderson, *Dave Burbank, Joan Searles (Pastor David's aunt), *Skeeter Kingsburg, Ben DeLong (brother of Chrissy Oachs), *LaTelle Bailey, Mike Miller (Geri's brother), the family of Amber Rousu. **Shalom member*

Feb/26 Activity			
Revenues	Expenses	Surpl/ (Deficit)	
\$ 11,309	\$ 13,178	\$ (1,869)	Building Fund
\$ 35,370	\$ 51,517	\$ (16,146)	General Fund
The annual General/Bldg Funds budget was approved showing offerings equal to congregation approved expenses. Current General/Bldg fund cash balance is \$109,812.			

Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry	03-29-26 Palm Sunday	04-05-26 Easter Sunday
Acolyte		Joshua Flaten
Assisting Minister	Nola Smith	Carol Hedlund
Communion Assist	Judy Hoffman	Dave Morgan
Communion Assist	Sue Engstrom	Amy Klimek
Greeters	Pris Fieldhammer	Marlys Wanttie
Greeters	Carol Klein	Judy Radjenovich
Lector	Sarah Fleener	John Smith
Musicians	SOS Band	
Proclaim/FB Live	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Ushers	Dave Morgan	Dave Malvin
Ushers	Dean Kliewer	Grant Pexsa
Counters	Vic Dale	Derek Navratil
Counters	Charmaine Munt	Al Anderson

THIS WEEK AT SHALOM

Sunday	03-29	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship in-person or online Hospitality GWOH
Monday	03-30	1:00 pm	Book Club
Tuesday	03-31	7:30 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study at Common Ground Dartball Gospel of Uke Runestone Chorus
Wednesday	04-01		No Activities
Thursday	04-02	8:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Quilting Bible Study No Shalom Singers Maundy Thursday service
Friday	04-03	6:30 pm	Good Friday service
Saturday	04-04	6:00 pm-Midnight	Prayer Vigil
Sunday	04-05	9:30 am 10:30 am	Easter Sunday service in-person or online Hospitality

Shared Ministry

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Acolyte

Assisting Minister

Communion Assist

Communion Assist

Greeters

Greeters

Lector

Musicians

Proclaim/FB Live

Ushers

Ushers

Nola Smith

Grant Pexsa

Dan Hermanson

Corey Drewes

Tammy Drewes

Cami Pexsa

CJ/Kim/Julie

Al Anderson

Sue Engstrom

Carol Hedlund

Joann Garland

CJ/Kim/Julie