

**Welcome to Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday**



Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Welcome: Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

Worship: *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kid's bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

The assembly gathers in the narthex, so that all may enter in procession. Palm branches are distributed before the service begins.

ACCLAMATION

As the Service begins, the presiding minister and the assembly greet one another with the following verse repeated three times.

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 the ywenty-first chapter.
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 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.

PROCESSION

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

Amen.

Refrain

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

- 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*

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

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

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

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

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.

All are seated.

Word

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

The prophet Zechariah comes from a time after the exile, when God's people had returned to the land but were still living under foreign rule and longing for restoration. Into that uncertainty, the prophet speaks a word of hope—not of a powerful, conquering ruler, but of a different kind of king. This king arrives in humility, riding on a donkey rather than a war horse, and brings not domination but peace.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

The Psalm is read responsively.

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²**Let [God's People] say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."**

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰**This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²²**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

²⁷The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

**²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.**

²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

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 was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

Musical notation for the hymn "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" in G major (one sharp). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost."

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 ev'ry name.** (*Phil. 2:8-9*)

THE GOSPEL READING: John 11:54 - 12:3, 9-11

The holy scriptures according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

^{11:54} Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness, and he remained there with the disciples.

⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify

themselves. ⁵⁶They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?” ⁵⁷Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who knew where Jesus was should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

^{12:1} Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’s feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁹When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

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

All are seated.

SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

HYMN OF THE DAY

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

THE NICENE'S CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene's 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.**

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

A brief silence.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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

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 Leeann, Nancy, Jenna, Art, Ken, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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

Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “Peace be with you.” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshipping alone.

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
 You are most holy,
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
 to fulfill for us your holy will
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

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

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION

All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.

We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

May 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 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

ELW 346

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, your road pursue,
with palms and scattered garments strewed.
- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!

In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The hosts of angels in the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die,
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Lector

Pianist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Kellie Kerfin

Roberta Sejnost

Jim Eckwall

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Judy Paders

Alice Tangorra and Bruce Danielson

Judy Padera

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

Announcements 3-29-2026

Wine and Candles this month are provided by **Karen Lind**, for many blessings in her life.

Easter Bonnets This Easter (April 4) we are going to try something old and new. We are going to wear Easter bonnets at the church service on Easter. A hat something like a Derby hat. You can get one in the stores, online or resale shops. Or if you are creative, make one. So Ladies, we hope to see you in your Easter bonnets this Easter!

Gardeners Needed Lord of Life's flower gardens will need some tender loving care. There will be a meeting on Sunday, April 12 after service for all those who would like to help maintain or water the flower gardens. If you have questions, please call Arlene at 630-918-7890 or Judy Padera.

Lunch Bunch We will meet at Longhorn, 708 Janes Ave. in Bolingbrook on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Debbie McNichols at 630-878-4970. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Senior Spirits We will meet on **Thursday April 16, 2026** at noon. We will have our usual Potluck lunch and as always everyone is welcome! Any questions please call Marilyn at 630-927-9996

Upcoming Meetings

Personnel Meeting - April 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM

RIC Committee Meeting – April 7, 2026 at 12:00 PM

Property Meeting – April 13, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Please pray for members:

Leeann Swanson	Nancy Urban	Jenna Suda
Art Sejnost	Ken Gulliford	Vern Sima
Kerry Spitznagle	Roberta Sejnost	Judy Padera
Linda Matta	Paul Ristau	Toni Blesy
Jim Eckwall	Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

Last Week's Giving – \$1755.00

Electronic Donation for the month of March- \$878.82

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	3/29	10:00 AM	Worship
		11:00 AM	Sibling Sunday Treat Table
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	3/31	5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	4/1	4:00 PM	Personnel Committee
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	4/2	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday
Friday	4/3	9:30 AM	Cards
		7:00 PM	Good Friday
Saturday	4/4	9:00 AM	SDA
		3:00 PM	Holy Saturday
Sunday	4/5	Happy Easter	
		10:00 AM	Worship
		1:00 PM	Loving Word