

Bethel LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 29, 2026



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.

All Are Welcome at Bethel Lutheran Church!

... a community growing Deeper in faith and Wider in love. Ephesians 3:16-17

-----GATHERING-----

PRELUDE
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
INVOCATION

CELEBRATION WITH PALMS

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna to the Son of David.

PALM SUNDAY READING

MARK 11:1-3, 7-11

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"

⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

PROCESSION OF PALMS

ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

In an act of devotion, you are invited to come forward to lay your palms at the foot of the altar while singing in celebration of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem.

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 is 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.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

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-----

Dramatic Reading of the Passion of our Lord according to Matthew (see handout)

Narrator: Darline Demott

Jesus: John Tilelli

Peter: Noah Young

Judas: Pastor Dave

Pilate: John Fredericksen

High Priest: Dynell Smith

Witness/Servant: Barbara Simmons

Reflection Questions

1. When Jesus prays in Gethsemane, he asks that the cup pass from him, yet ultimately submits to God's will. What does Jesus' struggle and prayer teach us about facing difficult or painful moments in our own lives?
2. Many people fail Jesus during the Passion story—including Peter, the disciples who fall asleep, and Judas Iscariot who betrays him. What do these moments reveal about human weakness, and how might they help us understand God's grace?
3. During the trial and crucifixion, Jesus often remains silent even when falsely accused. Why do you think Jesus chose silence at certain moments, and what might this teach us about responding to injustice or conflict?



HYMN OF THE DAY

“THE WONDERFUL CROSS”

Music and lyrics: Chris Tomlin, Isaac Watts, JD Walt et al.
© 2000 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs
Administrators Capitol CMG Publishing

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with “God, in your mercy” and the response will be **“receive our prayer.”**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION- PALM SUNDAY HOSANNA- Choir/Children's Choir/Leah Young

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your 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.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

JESUS' WORDS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice is also available.**

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

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 HYMN

“AMAZING LOVE”

Music and Lyrics: Graham Kendrick
© 1989 Make Way Music Administrators Music Services, Inc.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The crowds have quieted, the palms are laid aside.

The road now leads to the cross.

Jesus, You walked the road of suffering for us.

Teach us to walk the road of love with You.

You were betrayed, denied, and forsaken.

Be near to us in our own moments of sorrow.

You gave Your life for the life of the world.

Help us to lay down our lives in faith and service.

Go into this Holy Week in quiet strength,
With hearts open to the mystery of the cross,
And eyes open for the surprise of the empty tomb.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“PRAISE”

Music and Lyrics: Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown et Al.
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Writer's Roof Publishing; Brandon Lake Music; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing
For Humans Publishing; Maverick City Publishing Administrators Capitol CMG Publishing,
Essential Music Publishing LLC, Tribes Rights Management LLC

DISMISSAL

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

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