

+The Divine Service+

Palm Sunday | March 29, 2026 | 8 & 10:15AM



The Triumphal Entry of the Son of God

The Liturgy of Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY begins the celebration of the Christian Passover. As God rescued his people from Egyptian slavery through the blood of the Lamb and the crossing of the Red Sea, so he rescues us from sin and death by the shed blood of his only-begotten Son, **“the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”** (John 1:29). Christ’s death and resurrection is our Passover from death to life (Romans 6). Today, our eyes are fixed on Christ, who enters the Holy City for his sacred task. As he moves to his cross and passion, we will follow with glad and willing hearts, as his disciples once greeted his holy entrance with palm branches and loud shouts of Hosannas.

This Sunday begins our most sacred time of the year as we hear, gaze upon, and participate in the events that changed all history to bring us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Hence, the Church traditionally calls this mini-season at the culmination of Lent “*Holy Week.*”

The Divine Service on Palm Sunday contains these ancient elements:

+ *The Procession of Palms.* The children follow the cross in procession as the congregation sings ‘*All Glory, Laud, and Honor.*’ This has been the traditional hymn for the procession of palms since the ninth century. The procession of palms is no mere reenactment or pious remembrance. By this procession, the members of the Church understand that they are participants of the original saving event of Christ’s Triumphal Entry.

+ *The Reading of the Passion.* We will hear and participate in the reading of the Passion narrative from the Gospel according to St. Matthew. On Good Friday, we will hear the reading of the Passion according to St. John.

+ *The Church has entered Passiontide.* The *Alleluia*, the *Gloria Patri*, and the *Gospel Procession* are all withheld until the Feast of Easter, when our joy will be unrestrained.



LITURGY NOTE

+The children of St. Paul are invited to assemble in the choir loft to lead us in pre-service music, and then to gather in the narthex to lead us in the Procession of Palms. **Please have your children present fifteen minutes before each service in the choir loft.**

+When the bells ring, stand and face the cross.

+The opening liturgy begins at the entrance to the sanctuary.

The Procession of Palms

Pastoral Greeting

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

C Amen.

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C Hosanna to the Son of David!

Collect

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12–19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P ¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵“Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

- P** Let us go forth in peace,
- C** in the name of the Lord!

Processional Hymn | 442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

The children process in with palms to remind of the crowd of believers who gathered to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem. The children lay their palms at the baptismal font, to signify how in Baptism we are joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When all have arrived at their places, the procession concludes with the following:

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
- C** Hosanna in the highest!

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Sit



The Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a 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 up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Introit

Psalm 24:7–10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

**Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

**Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

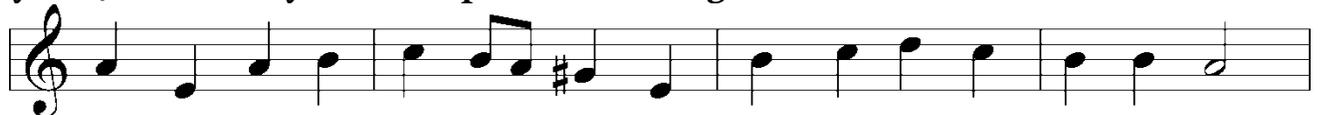
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

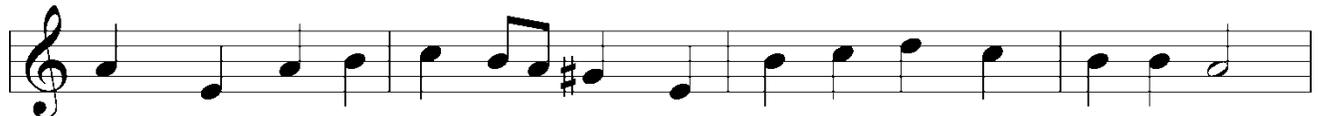
In the season of Lent, there is no Gospel Procession or Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel is read from the Lectern, the Pulpit, and the Entrance to the Chancel.

The Hymn | 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

The Passion of Our Lord

The Gospel According to St. Matthew

*The congregation speaks those words in **bold**.
Due to the length of the Gospel the congregation may sit until
the verse where Christ is crucified—then the congregation may stand.*

Evangelist: Pastor Yeager

Jesus: Pastor Brege

*Chief Priests, Disciples, Judas, Peter, False Witnesses, High Priest, Sanhedrin, Servant Girl,
Bystanders, The Prophet Jeremiah, Pontius Pilate, Claudia—wife of Pilate, Crowd, Soldiers,
Mockers, Centurion:*

Seminarians Ryan Skove and Iestyn Jones

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26—27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh chapters.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Part I: Jesus Anointed For Burial

Evangelist: ¹When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples,
Jesus: ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will
be delivered up to be crucified.”

Evangelist: ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of
the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus
by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said,

Chief Priests: “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

Evangelist: ⁶Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a
woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she
poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸And when the disciples saw it, they were
indignant, saying,

Disciples: “Why this waste? ⁹For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to
the poor.”

Evangelist: ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them,

Jesus: “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹For
you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²In pouring this
ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly, I say to you,
wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be
told in memory of her.”

Part II: The Betrayal of Judas Iscariot

Evangelist: ¹⁴Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said,

Judas Iscariot: “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?”

Evangelist: And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

Disciples: “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

Evangelist: ¹⁸He said,

Jesus: “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”

Evangelist: ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said,

Jesus: “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

Evangelist: ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another,

C *Disciples:* “Is it I, Lord?”

Evangelist: ²³He answered,

Jesus: “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

Evangelist: ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered,

Judas Iscariot: “Is it I, Rabbi?”

Evangelist: He said to him,

Jesus: “You have said so.”

Part III: The Institution of the Lord’s Supper

Evangelist: ²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: “Take, eat; this is my body.”

Evangelist: ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Evangelist: ³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Part IV: Gethsemane

Evangelist: ³¹Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

Evangelist: ³³Peter answered him,

Peter: “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

Evangelist: ³⁴Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

Evangelist: ³⁵Peter said to him,

Peter: “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!”

Evangelist: And all the disciples said the same.

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

Evangelist: ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them,

Jesus: “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”

Evangelist: ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying,

Jesus: “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

Evangelist: ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter,

Jesus: “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Evangelist: ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,

Jesus: “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

Evangelist: ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

Part V: The Arrest

Evangelist: ⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.”

Evangelist: ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

Judas: “Greetings, Rabbi!”

Evangelist: And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Friend, do what you came to do.”

Evangelist: Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

Evangelist: ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

Evangelist: Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Part VI: The Trial Before the Sanhedrin

Evangelist: ⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said,

False Witnesses: “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”

Evangelist: ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said,

High Priest: “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”

Evangelist: ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him,

High Priest: “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Evangelist: ⁶⁴Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Evangelist: ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

High Priest: “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your judgment?”

Evangelist: They answered,

Sanhedrin: “He deserves death.”

Evangelist: ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying,

Sanhedrin: “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

Part VII: The Denial of Peter

Evangelist: ⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said,

Servant Girl: “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”

Evangelist: ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all, saying,

Peter: “I do not know what you mean.”

Evangelist: ⁷¹ And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant Girl: “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Evangelist: ⁷² And again he denied it with an oath:

Peter: “I do not know the man.”

Evangelist: ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Bystanders: “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.”

Evangelist: ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

C *Peter:* “**I do not know the man.**”

Evangelist: And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus,

Jesus: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

Evangelist: And he went out and wept bitterly.

Part VIII: The Death of Judas Iscariot

Evangelist: ¹ When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ² And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

³ Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴ saying,

Judas: “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

Evangelist: They said,

Chief Priests: “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

Evangelist: ⁵ And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

Chief Priests: “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.”

Evangelist: ⁷ So they took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying,

The Prophet Jeremiah: “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, ¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”

Part IX: The Trial Before Pontius Pilate

Evangelist: ¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

Pontius Pilate: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Evangelist: Jesus said,

Jesus: “You have said so.”

Evangelist: ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

Evangelist: ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”

Evangelist: ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Claudia, wife of Pilate: “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.”

Evangelist: ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them,

Pilate: “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

Evangelist: And they said,

C *Crowd:* “Barabbas.”

Evangelist: ²²Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

Evangelist: They all said,

C *Crowd:* “Let him be crucified!”

Evangelist: ²³And he said,

Pilate: “Why, what evil has he done?”

Evangelist: But they shouted all the more,

C *Crowd:* “Let him be crucified!”

Evangelist: ²⁴So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

Evangelist: ²⁵And all the people answered,

C *Crowd:* “His blood be on us and on our children!”

Evangelist: ²⁶Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

Soldiers: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Evangelist: ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Part X: The Crucifixion

Evangelist: ³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

Stand.

Evangelist: ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read,

Pilate: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Evangelist: ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying,

Mockers: “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

Evangelist: ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

Chief Priests: ⁴²“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

Evangelist: ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Part XI: The Death of Jesus

Evangelist: ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

Jesus: “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

Evangelist: that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

Bystanders: “This man is calling Elijah.”

Evangelist: ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said,

Bystanders: “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

Evangelist: ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Evangelist: ⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

☐ *Centurion:* “Truly this was the Son of God!”

Evangelist: ⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Part XII: The Burial of Jesus

Evangelist: ⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said,

Chief Priests: “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

Evangelist: ⁶⁵Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.”

Evangelist: ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

back cover of the hymnal

Sit

Hymn of the Day | 438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

Sermon



Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

The Offering

The Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life might rise again, and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei | 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

st. 1



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Sit

Distribution

Holy Communion at St. Paul

Our congregation confesses the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. To care for those who are about to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Altar is open to those baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Faith, and are members of our congregation, another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or of another Church body with whom we are in fellowship. If you have not communed in a year or are visiting, please speak with one of our Pastors before communing today. Thank you.

Distribution Hymn | 441 Ride On, Ride On In Majesty

Distribution Hymn | 444 No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet

Distribution Hymn | 439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

Stand

The Dismissal

P The holy body and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the one true faith unto life +everlasting! Depart in peace. **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn | 443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

The Service is ended. Depart in peace!



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week and Easter Schedule at St. Paul

The Divine Services—Palm Sunday, March 29, 8 & 10:15AM

The Divine Service is celebrated at St. Paul on Palm Sunday
Children sing Pre-Service in Choir Loft/Lead the Procession of Palms
And featuring the Reading of the St. Matthew Passion by parts
Please have your children to the narthex ten minutes early

*** NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE ON April 1st due to Holy Week**

The Divine Service—Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7PM

The Divine Service is celebrated at St. Paul
with the service of Corporate Confession/Individual Absolution
and the Stripping of the Altar

The Tre Ore—Good Friday, April 3, 12-3PM

The Tre Ore (three hour service) is observed by the LCMS Churches of the Decatur Circuit
at St. John Bingen. All are invited to attend.

The Chief Service—Good Friday, April 3, 7PM

The Chief Service of Good Friday
is celebrated at St. Paul featuring the Reading of the St. John Passion,
the Bidding Prayer, and the Reproaches

The Easter Vigil, April 4, 8PM

The Easter Vigil is observed by the LCMS Churches of the Decatur Circuit
at St. John Bingen. All are invited to attend.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 6AM & 9AM

Divine Services for Easter Sunrise and Easter Day
Easter Sunrise Service will end in the Cemetery—bring your jackets
Breakfast served in between services 7:30AM
By the youth/confirmands of St. Paul

Announcements

St. Paul

Sunday School children/Palm Sunday. The children will sing before both services on Palm Sunday 3/29 and then will come down stairs to lead the congregation in the procession of palms. Please have your children early to the choir loft for singing. Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Services. Mark your calendars for the services of Holy Week: Palm Sunday Divine Services (3/29), *please have your children ten minutes early to the narthex before both services for the procession of palms*; Maundy Thursday Divine Service at St. Paul (4/2) at 7PM; Good Friday Tre Ore (at St. John, Bingen, 12-3PM), Good Friday Chief Service at St. Paul (4/3) at 7PM; the Easter Vigil at St. John Bingen (this is a circuit-wide service conducted by all the pastors of the Decatur circuit, LCMS, 4/4) at 8PM; and the Easter services on Sunday, 4/5 at 6AM and 9AM at St. Paul. *There will be an Easter breakfast served in between the Easter services by the youth and confirmands of St. Paul.* Please join us as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Passover from death to life. **There is no Wednesday evening service on 4/1 due to the Holy Week services that will take place throughout the week.*

Easter Breakfast sign up sheet is in the narthex. Sign up to bring a casserole, dessert, side dish, coffee cake, or drinks. Youth of St. Paul—please be on hand to serve the breakfast. Thank you.

Ladies Aid will be setting up to make noodles April 12th. **We will be making noodles 4/13, 4/14, and 4/15 with final bagging and clean up 4/16 (Thursday).** Any and all help is welcome! If you have never participated in the life-changing noodle-making experience of the St. Paul Preble Ladies Aid, you are in for a wild ride, to say the least. Join us.

Elders, Council, and Voters Meetings will take place 4/13 and 4/14. We will meet in the sanctuary as the Ladies will be making noodles in the fellowship hall. Join us.

LBI (Lutheran Bible Institute) rep needed. Our long-service representative for the Lutheran Bible Institute, Darrel Ehlerding, is stepping down from his duties. Every congregation needs a representative for LBI so—if you have any interest in serving St. Paul as our LBI representative, please speak with Pastor Yeager. This can be anyone in the congregation, male or female, who has a love for LBI and what we put together each February for the circuit.

Senior fellowship. A group of Lutheran seniors have begun to meet informally at 1PM Thursdays in the fellowship hall for cards and fellowship. We would like you to join us if you are interested. Please talk to Diana Hoffman for more information. You are welcome to join us!

Collection for the Hope Clinic will continue through the end of March. Please leave your donation for babies and their mothers in the totes in the narthex. Thank you.

Job Descriptions. We are gathering job descriptions for every office and contracted position in the Church. If you are serving on Church council, or working for the Church in any capacity, we ask that you write a detailed-as-possible job description of your work and turn it in to Pr. Yeager. We would like to have these in before the April Voters Assembly.

Wyneken

Grandparents/VIP Day: Friday, April 8th, 7:45-10:45AM. Registration and check-in will start at 7:45AM. Classroom visits for Kindergarten-8th Grades only will take place from 7:45AM-10AM with a Chapel service to follow in the main gym. Dismissal of guests will follow the chapel service. Information for grandparents day can be found at the following site <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4XeHBS7sFZ07duSHOu3SpxRGE1G5Nu5slb0xmsPxvU4meZA/viewform>. A link can be found at wyneken.org. All attendees are encouraged to pre-register for this event. We hope you are able to join us! If you are unable to register your guests online, you may call the office with your guests' names.

Spring Association Meeting: Tuesday, April 21st at 7PM. Come join us in the gymnasium! We would love to see familiar faces and share updates on all the great things happening at Wyneken.

Open Positions. Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School is prayerfully seeking Christ-centered educators for the 2026–2027 school year. Open positions include 5th Grade Teacher, Middle School Science Teacher, Middle School English Language Arts Teacher, and Physical Education Teacher. Positions may be filled by divine call or contract. LCMS-rostered and non-rostered candidates who support confessional Lutheran education are encouraged to apply. Please contact Casey Nidlinger at 260-639-6177 for more information and we ask that you keep this process in your prayers.

Childcare Help Needed. Do you love spending time with children and talking about God's Word? Wyneken Childcare is looking for a part-time employee effective immediately! We are specifically looking for help in the infant classroom. If this is something you'd be interested in, please email your resume to jconrad@wyneken.org or childcare@wyneken.org. We appreciate all the love and support you've given us. Please prayerfully consider helping in this way.

Scrap Metal Drive. The Wyneken 7th grade class is sponsoring an ongoing scrap metal drive in support of their trip to Washington, DC. You may drop off your items at Metal Source and tell them it is for the Wyneken Class of 2027, or contact Ryan Scherer via text or email (260-639-3330) to arrange for pick-up. Scrap metal can be anything to include old mowers, ovens, washers, dryers, etc. This is an ongoing account that should continue to be open for future Wyneken classes as well. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Circuit and Community

Camp Lutherhaven. Looking for a meaningful summer experience? Camp Lutherhaven offers adventure, friendship, and time rooted in God's Word. Campers might spend the day shooting archery, swimming in the lake, or conquering challenges with cabinmates—then gather for worship, Bible study, and reflection. Summer 2026's theme is 'Run,' (1 Timothy 6:11), inviting campers to explore how God calls us to live with purpose and faith. Register before April 1 to receive the Early Bird discount. Learn more at lutherhaven.org or call 260-636-7101.

St. John Flatrock's **Spring Rummage Sale** will be Friday 3/27 from 8-5, with a bag sale Saturday 3/28. 12912 Franke Rd, Monroeville, Indiana 46773. The bag sale will be \$3 for a brown paper bag, \$6 for a 13 gallon kitchen garbage bag, and half off all priced items.

Palm Sunday – A Meditation on the Word of God

Matthew 26-27

Dear Christian friends, we have a great example of humility in our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Paul says in this morning's Epistle, **have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God**—that means that, though he was of the same essence with the Father and the Spirit as true God, very God of very God—though Jesus was God, **he did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped**. That is to say, he did not hang onto his honor and glory jealously, but he let it all go. He divested himself of all honor and glory and dignity, and he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.

There is no better picture of Jesus the servant, than the Jesus of Palm Sunday, riding into Jerusalem, not on a great stallion, a beast of war, but on a donkey—the lowly transportation of children and slaves. He is a servant. And though he is also a King, so that the crowds were right to acclaim him as King of Israel, he is King riding to a throne, not made of gold, to a crown, not made of jewels—but to a throne that is a cross, and to a crown that is a woven branch of thorns.

Jesus is a servant-King. He says, **I came not to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many**. And how many places and in how many way do we see Jesus serving us? Healing the sick. Raising the dead. Washing the disciples' feet. Forgiving sin. And showing love and compassion to every human being though no one is worthy of it. And St. Paul says, **have this mind among yourselves**. That means be humble. Be lowly. Be like your Savior was humble and lowly for you, to save you! Have this mind among yourselves!

But we have a problem with humility, don't we? We live in a narcissistic culture—probably the most narcissistic culture that's ever existed. Everything is about me, me, me, me, me. And though we are a nation that has been blessed with great wealth, where's the thankfulness? Why aren't the Churches filled with thankful people praising God for all his blessings? But truth is, most aren't satisfied with their lives. We want more of what we don't have, more than what we've been given. We have a problem with humility. When someone contradicts us, or says a nasty word, or hurts our feelings, what do we do? We lash out. We fight back. And why?

Because we're prideful. And we can't stand to let our pride suffer abuse. And we don't think, when other people attack us, how our Lord was attacked, how he was accused and beaten and spat upon and crucified, and still he would not fight back, repay evil for evil, even though as God, he could've called down a legion of angels to fight on his behalf, still he would not. Why? Because he loved them—even his enemies. And in humility, he was giving his life for them.

Now St. Paul says, **have this mind among yourselves**. Serve others as Jesus has served you. Live toward others as Jesus has lived for you, in humble, lowly, sacrificial, self-giving love. Consider how Jesus put your needs—the needs of his neighbor—before his own, and go and do likewise. But the cross shows us our sin. We look at the cross and we see that we haven't lived like humble king Jesus. We haven't loved our neighbors as ourselves. And so we come to the cross in repentance: praying that the Holy Spirit would forgive us our sins of arrogance and pride, and give us the heart and mind of Christ, so that we might at least make a beginning of living in a Christ-like way; emptying ourselves that others may be filled.

So the cross shows us our sin. But the cross also shows us our Savior. It shows the Lamb of God who bore the sin of the world in his body. It shows the Savior who took our sin and death upon himself, who stood in for us, as our Substitute under the Law, taking the punishment we deserved for sin—the anger and the wrath of God, that we may be forgiven and reconciled to God, and justified.

We realize that Jesus, as he is dying on the cross, is not only suffering the condemnation of men—the physical and psychological torture—but in a much deeper and more profound way, Jesus is also suffering the condemnation of God. That’s why there’s darkness over the land from noon to three—a sign of God’s judgment. And that’s why from the cross, Jesus cries, “**Eli, Eli, lama sabach thani?**” **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** Because there at the cross, our sin and God’s judgment is on him. He’s taken our place, as our Substitute. And Jesus suffers separation from his Father, the very pains of hell, why? So that we may have heaven. So that we may never be cut off from God or condemned, but forgiven.

And if we want to see this, we should look at the story of Jesus and Barabbas. Now, Barabbas was, as the Gospel says, “a notorious prisoner.” He was a thief, a murderer, an insurrectionist, the worst of criminals. But it’s interesting—do you know what the name Barabbas means? It means “son of the father.” So do you see the great irony being set up before us in the Gospel? You have this one ‘son of the father,’ who is guilty, deserving of death, yet is set free, because the other, True Son of the Father, has taken his place, to die his death. That is a picture of our salvation. We are Barabbas. Guilty of sin, deserving of death. But in the court of God, Christ Jesus has stood in the dock and taken our place. He is the divine defense attorney who loves his guilty defendant so much, that he takes our punishment and dies our death. And through his holy Word, through Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, he bestows upon us his Church, the blessings he won for us at Calvary: forgiveness, life, salvation, and peace with God forever.

Acolytes

3/29 8AM Jon Miller 10:15 Oliver Faurote

Attendance

Wednesday, March 18 Lent Midweek 4 75

Wednesday, March 25 Lent Midweek 5 65

Sunday, March 22 8AM 103 10:15AM 72

Stewardship for 3/15/26

Offering: \$8,062.85 Online Offering: \$317.00 Total for the week: \$8,379.85

Weekly Goal: \$7,667.00 vs. Year to Date: +\$2,539.90

Prayer of the Church

- +**The Sick and recovering:** Don Haines, Mark Bulmahn.
- +**Our Wyneken School:** Mrs. Jennifer Conrad, teachers, staff, students, and childcare.
- +**Expectant mothers:** Chloe Johnson; Katie Keuneke.
- +**The Homebound:** Laurna Bulmahn, Marilyn Werling, Cindy Gallmeyer, Warren Scheumann, Anita Spiegel, Judy Teague (all at Woodcrest); Don Haines, David Schueler (Ossian Health), Ron Selking (Residences, Chesterton).
- +**Birthdays 3/24-3/30.** Beth Merriman, Marcy Gilbert, Connie Jeffrey, Braelle Brune, Jamie Tharp, Amanda Borne, Megan Berry, Emily Sovine, Alan Hamilton, James Brune.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 29

**Please have your children upstairs to sing before the services
And in the narthex to lead us in the Palm Sunday procession.*

8AM Palm Sunday—Divine Service

9:30AM Bible Class/Sunday School/Confirmation

10:15AM Palm Sunday—Divine Service

11:30-12:30PM Lutheran Lads Greek Study

Thursday, April 2

1PM Senior Fellowship

7PM Maundy Thursday—Divine Service

Friday, April 3

12PM Good Friday—Tre Ore, St. John, Bingen

7PM Good Friday—Chief Service, St. Paul, Preble

Saturday, April 4

7PM Easter Vigil—Circuit Service, St. John, Bingen

Sunday, April 5

6AM Easter Sunrise—Divine Service

7:30AM Easter Breakfast

9AM Easter Day—Divine Service

No Lutheran Lads Greek Study today.



Saint Paul Ev. Lutheran Church—Preble, Indiana

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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