



PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026—10:30 am

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL #982 “Pave the Way With Branches”

Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!



*Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.



Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.



Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -



san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

**Additional verses ad lib.:*
 Release for the captives . . .
 Hope for the downtrod . . .
 Land for the landless . . .
 Debts are forgiven . . .

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain, you are invited to read the bold sections

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets,
and cries of "Hosanna!" It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world.
The first Palm Sunday was a day of peaceful, hopeful action.

So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join the saints before us in an act of faith.
Let us begin with an act of prayer, an act of honesty, an act of transformation.
Let us begin by drawing close to God and sharing the truth of our lives.

Let us begin with confession.
Join me in prayer:

**Jesus of Nazareth,
we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.
You marched through the streets and walked on water.
You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables.
Your good news was not confined to conversation.
It was not confined to the Temple.
Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.
Holy God, we long for a faith like that.
Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith
to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon.
Inspire us to love as you loved.
Inspire us to act.
With hope for tomorrow we pray, Amen.**

Church family,
whether or not you wave your palm branch,
whether or not you live out your faith,
whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,
God will never stop loving you.
Jesus will never stop marching for you.
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.
**We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.
What good, *good news*. Amen!**

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy._____

For the peace of the world, and for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mer - - cy.

Help, Save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

A - men, A - - men._____

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, if we've heard this story before, the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, then help us to hear it again. And if we've never heard this story before, if we've never heard the story of Palm Sunday or the cries of "Hosanna," then give us the wisdom to follow along. Give us the wisdom to hear these words. Give us the wisdom to take them into our hearts. Give us the wisdom to act on their truth. We are listening. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

Please stand as you rare comfortable in body or spirit.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

$\text{♩} = 116$

Now's the time to hear God's word. Let the mes-sage be tru - ly heard.

Let us lis - ten care - ful - ly and al - low our hearts to be stirred.

GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. 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.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Holy Spirit, Spark a Vision”

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, spark a vi - sion,
2. Ho - ly Spir - it, span di - vi - sions,
come ig - nite a sense of play.
swell our move - ments, build our might.
Kin - dle bold im - ag - i - na - tion,
Gath - er us for new ad - ven - tures

proph - e - sy a brav - er way.
work - ing toward a world that's right.

Light a deep, com - pel - ling crav - ing.
Feed a stead - y, fierce de - vo - tion.

Fuel a long - ing strong and strange.
Shape a staunch com - mu - ni - ty.

Share in - spir - ing prov - o - ca - tions.
Flame a - mong us, clear and con - stant.

Ac - ti - vate a need for change.
Draw us close to set us free.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please
stand as
you are
comforta-
ble in body
or spirit.

We believe that many years ago
a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.
We believe that on that day
the people cried out,
longing and praying for a better world.
We believe that these longings
came from a place of deep hope,
and we believe
that hope cannot be silenced.
So we listen for the Spirit.
We sing Hosanna.
We pay attention.
For in between the silence and the song,
we believe the Spirit is speaking.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"My Song Is Love Unknown" *Celebration Choir*

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we bring what we have—ordinary gifts, honest offerings. Receive them, bless them, and make them enough. Let them become good news: bread for the hungry, welcome for the vulnerable, justice shaped by mercy. Take what we place in your hands and use it to form us into a people who live what we believe. For your goodness overflows, and we are grateful to share in it. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

It is right.

It is good.

...

We join the song of heaven and earth:

$\text{♩} = 92$



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, Na - ture dis - lays your glo - ry.

5
Hea - ven and Earth are full of your works just as far as the eye can see.

9
Bles - sed is the Son of God who died at Cal - va - ry. took on our sins and

14
set us free in an act he could fore - see. Ho - ly, ho - ly

18
ho - ly Lord, Beau - ty is all a - round We have been blessed be -

22
- yond com - pare. Let us praise You with joy - ful sound.

Holy are you, ...

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Sprit upon us...
almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

Please be seated.

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.____

#336 “Lamb of God”
#1047 “What Is the World Like”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

Benedic-
tion *God*
bleses us and
sends us in
mission to the
world.

Please
stand as
you are
comforta-
ble in body
or spirit.

BENEDICTION

People of God,
go and live what you have shouted.

You have sung your Hosannas.
You have waved your branches.

Now let this faith find its feet.
Take your place in the procession.
Follow the One who came
not on a warhorse
but on a colt,
not with armies
but with courage.

The good news was never meant
to stay within these walls.
It is alive in the world,
asking what you will do next.

Go where justice needs a body.
Go where hope needs company.

And may God the Creator call you forward,
Christ the humble King embolden you,
and the Holy Spirit move through you,
now and into Holy Week.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

#344 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

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.

SENDING

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Holy Week at Messiah

Maundy Thursday Worship and the Celebration of First Communion

Thursday, April 2 6:30 PM

In-person in Messiah's sanctuary, On-line and on the radio 101.9 FM

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 3 6:30 PM

In-person in First Presbyterian's sanctuary

Easter Vigil Worship

Saturday, April 4 5:00 PM

In-person: We gather outside at the entrance to Messiah to light the Easter Vigil flame and process into the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5

7:00 AM Sunrise service at McCarty's Cove

8:30 Traditional Worship: In-person in Messiah's sanctuary, on-line & on the radio 101.9 FM

10:30 Contemporary-ish Worship: In-person in Messiah's sanctuary and on-line

Preacher:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Mike Hill
Reader:	Jeanne Groos
Ushers:	Amy Diedrich, Paula Diedrich
Communion Assistants:	Mike & Joan Hill, Gayle Mack, Bronce Reece
Greeters:	Nancy Raisanen, Marina Shinkarenko
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band:	Tom Bronken, Ross Larson, Dan Kilpela
Audio Technician:	Traci Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Inga Banitt
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	Bev Evans

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