

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. And we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All classes meet at 9:30 a.m. and will resume on April 12.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org/giving (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page).

Prelude

“Hosanna! Hosanna!”

arr. Timothy Mayfield

Sanctuary Choir; Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet; Dave Mosko, trombone

Please stand

Palm Sunday Processional Liturgy

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna to the Son of David.

P: Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby You have given us life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Processional Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

P: 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.”

Please raise your palm branches.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

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

P: We praise and thank You, O God, for the great acts of love by which You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that You bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and

follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Hymn No. 442

Please lower your palm branches.

Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. You may kneel or remain standing.

P: Compassionate One,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your
sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie ~ *Lord, have mercy*

Music in hymnal, pages 152-53

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

Music in hymnal, page 156

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

Please sit

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact
that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important
role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

R: ⁴The Lord GOD has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens,
wakens 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.

⁷ The 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;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

R: ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to 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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

Hymn No. 441

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message "The Showdown of the Two Processions"

Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Nicene Creed

C: **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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

Please sit

Announcements

Pastor James

Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate near the sanctuary doors after the service, or hand it to an usher as you leave.

Anthem

“To the Lamb on the Throne”
Sanctuary Choir; Brass Quintet

Dan Forrest

Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb
 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim
 And publish abroad His wonderful name
 The name all-victorious of Jesus extol
 His kingdom is glorious and rules over all
 Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb
 “Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!”
 Let all cry aloud and honor the Son
 The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim
 Fall down on their faces and worship the
 Lamb
 Worthy the Lamb
 Worthy the Lamb, the Lamb
 Worthy the Lamb

God rules in the height, almighty to save
 Though hid from our sight, His presence
 we have
 The great congregation His triumph shall
 sing
 Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King
 Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb
 Worthy, worthy the Lamb
 Then let us adore and give Him His right
 All glory and pow’r, all wisdom and might
 All honor and blessing with angels above
 And thanks never ceasing and infinite love
 Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb
 Worthy, worthy the Lamb

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: 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.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, “Hear us, O God, ...”

The congregation responds, “Your mercy is great.”

Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**Preface and Proper Preface**

Music in hymnal, page 160

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy

Music in hymnal, page 161

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

Pax Domini ~ *The peace of the Lord*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Agnus Dei ~ *Lamb of God*

Music in hymnal, page 163

Please sit

Distribution

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: "This is My Body . . . this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26-27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Please come forward by the center aisle or as instructed by the usher. Fill the rail, beginning at the end near the wall. Kneel. Cup your hands to receive the bread. Then, take an individual cup from the tray as it is passed. **Cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine. **For those who need gluten-free wafers:** Bring with you one of the brightly colored pieces of paper from the pews and hand it to the communion assistant who is distributing the wafers. That person will bring a gluten-free wafer to you.

Return to your seat via the aisle next to the windows. Place your empty communion cup in the bowl near the end of the rail. If you are unable to walk to the communion rail, please speak to an usher, and we will bring the sacrament to you.

Distribution Hymns "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

Hymn No. 570

"God Loved the World So That He Gave"

Hymn No. 571

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

P: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Hymn No. 443

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“My Spirit Be Joyful”

J. S. Bach/arr. Chuck Seipp

Brass Quintet

During the postlude, please take a moment to get up and greet guests and worshippers at this service you are new to you. You are also welcome to stay seated for a time of prayer and reflection.

+ + +

Please join us for coffee and conversation following the service – and the Pancake Breakfast after the 8:00 a.m. service.

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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday (April 2) – 7:30 p.m.

This service will be livestreamed and recorded

Good Friday (April 3) – 7:30 p.m.

This service will be livestreamed and recorded

Easter Sunday Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord (April 5)

8:15 a.m. Traditional service, with Holy Communion

Preservice music begins at 8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Informal, family-focused service, in the Fellowship Hall

This service will be livestreamed and recorded

11:15 a.m. Traditional service, with Holy Communion

Preservice music begins at 11:00 a.m.

This service will be livestreamed and recorded

Columbarium Peace Garden Dedication

On Easter Sunday, we will dedicate the Columbarium Peace Garden. Brief ceremonies will be held in the garden at 9:40 a.m. and at 10:50 a.m. (following the first two Easter worship services). All are welcome to participate as we set apart the Columbarium Peace Garden as a sacred place: a reminder of the sure and certain hope of resurrection.

Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
Worship Leader	Pastor James	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	Thatcher Hoplin	*
Acolyte	Maggie Noble	*
Scripture Reader	Andrew Otterbacher	*
Prayer Leader	Gary Budzier	Nancy McGarry
Cantor	Eugene Stromecki	Richard Jacobson
Ushers	* (lead) Dan Pelletier Drew Lipman Dick Orth	Jim Ellis (lead) Jim Micsan John Purtilo Goodwyn Morgan
Choir Director	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Altar Care	Vicki Peter	Joey Tempel
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager		Matt Hardy
Greeter	Donna Harper (door) * (welcome center)	Bill Ciesar (door) Deb Ciesar (door) June McGurn (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Deanine Thrash	Heidi Cooper
Engagement	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Ric Nickerson	
Closer		Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith	
Kitchen Cleanup		Jan Morgan

* = unfilled as of March 25

Special thanks to our instrumentalists: Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet; Eric Williams, trumpet; Claire Bradley, French horn; Dave Mosko, trombone; Cameron Farnsworth, tuba.

The participation of the Brass Quintet in our festival worship services is supported by gifts to the Above & Beyond program. Find out more about how you can contribute to the A&B program at gslcva.org/giving. You can also find copies of the current A&B catalog on the Welcome Center in the church entry area.

Board of Servant Leaders

Rob Fekete, chair
Tony Esse, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin
Drew Lipman
Jennifer Pelletier
Bernie Schoch

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Randy and Melanie Stockman); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

Room 201; pastorjo@gslcva.org; 703-439-2754

Gary James, Assisting Pastor

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Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director

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Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

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Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

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Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

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Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

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Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

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Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

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Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

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Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

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Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant

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Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

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Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org