

PALM SUNDAY | SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

MARCH 29, 2026



ST. PAUL'S

Evangelical Lutheran Church

WELCOME

Welcome! We are glad you are joining our community of faith for worship today. Whether you are a long-time Lutheran, or you come from another Christian tradition, or you're wandering or wondering about faith and the church, you are welcome to participate in worship in whatever ways are comfortable for you. If you are new to St. Paul's you can request more information on our web site contact page here:
www.stpaulsbrenham.org/contact

Our worship liturgy is rooted in the ancient church's practice of gathering on Sundays to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through hearing God's Word and sharing the communion meal in the presence of Christ. We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you.

This bulletin is a helpful guide to our worship liturgy, as are ushers and friendly people gathered here with you to worship God together.

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Michael Coffey	Lead Pastor
Donna Krueger	Pastor of Care Ministry
Diane Garrett	Organist
Larry Smith	Choir Director
Dr. Sarah Burke	Director of Contemporary Music
Lisa Eben	Financial Director
Thomas Johnson	Communications Coordinator
Anne Briggs	Membership Coordinator
Sarah Zwahr	Director of Youth and Family
Julie Guiberteau	Media Technician
Sandra Ehlinger	Head of Christian Day School

CONTACT US

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*St. Paul's is a congregation of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Learn more at www.elca.org*

PALM SUNDAY | SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

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. Amid it all 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.

OFFERING

Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex. Feel free to leave your offering there. The offering will be presented during the worship liturgy. You can also make an offering online at www.stpaulsbrenham.org/give

FIRST AID

A First Aid Kit and AED (defibrillator) are located in the closet of the usher room in the Narthex.

GATHERING

Those who wish gather outside for the palm procession.

PRELUDE

All Glory, Laud, and Honor: Toccata

M. Burkhardt

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

ACCLAMATION

The people raise their branches as the acclamation is repeated 3 times.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Gospel is read:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you;

through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSION

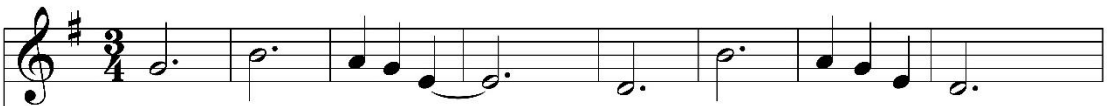
Let us go forth in peace,

in the name of Christ. Amen.


PROCESSIONAL SONG

Hosanna!

All





Cantor



Ho san na! Ho san na!

Je - sus is king
 Je - sus is Lord,
 Je - sus is blessed,
 Hail to the Lord,

hum - ble and
 lifts up the
 brings in God's
 Son of


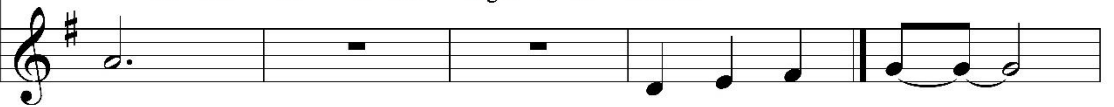



Ho san na!

low - ly,
 poor,
 king - dom,
 Da - vid,

ser - vant of
 the
 cares for
 the
 loves ev - ry
 of
 Son of

13 Fine





Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'n!

God,
 lost,
 one,
 God,

ser - vant of
 all,
 heals and for - gives,
 makes us God's
 peo - ple,
 bro - ther of
 all.

18



Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

PROCESSIONAL SONG

ELW 344 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Refrain

- All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
- 1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*
- 2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*
- 3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*
- 4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*
- 5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

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.

⁴ The 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.
⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.

⁶ I 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?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 31:9-16

The psalm is sung responsively.

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I ^l am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat ^l and my belly.
¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my ^l years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones ^l are consumed.**
¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to ^l my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street ^l they avoid me.
¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, ^l out of mind;
I am as useless as a ^l broken pot.**
¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ^l all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to ^l take my life.
¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in ^l you, O LORD.
I have said, “You ^l are my God.**
¹⁵ My times are ^l in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ^l persecute me.
¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- ^l on your servant;
save me in your ^l steadfast love.”**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 177

*The cantor sings the acclamation and the congregation repeats it.
The cantor sings the verse and the congregation sings the acclamation again.*



Cantor: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death | on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above | ev'ry name. (Phil. 2:8-9)*

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:14—27:66

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

*The congregation is seated for the first portion of the Passion reading.
When indicated, please stand as you are able for the final portion of the reading..*

MEDITATIVE SONG DURING THE PASSION READING

ELW 348 Stay with Me



MEDITATIVE SONG DURING THE PASSION READING

1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

ELW 351 stanzas 1, 4 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

4 Lord, be my consolation;
shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing
die safely in thy love.

After the reading of the passion:

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 353 *Were You There*

The creed is omitted during Lent.

Please kneel or sit for the prayers of intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

ELW 751 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The congregation sings the song at the beginning and after each petition.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Please stand for the Peace.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ. After the Peace, please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex before and after the service.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Hosanna to the King Dan Forrest

Please stand as you are able.

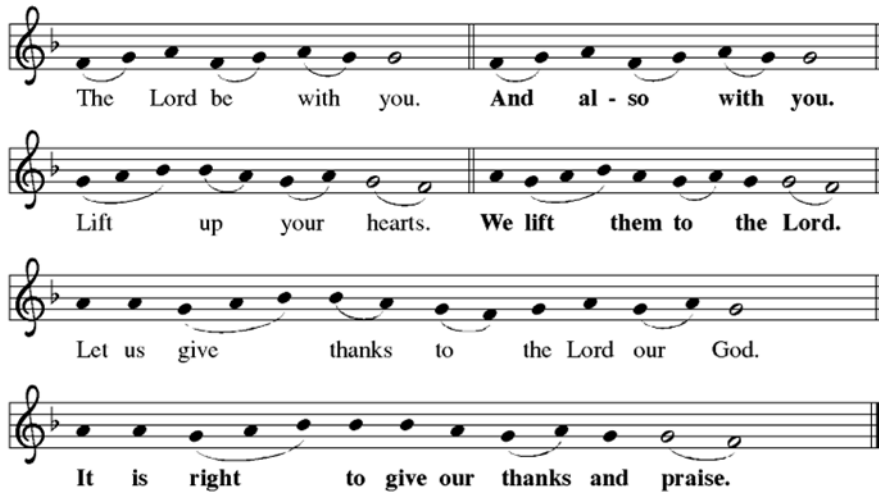
OFFERING SONG

ELW 182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting Three p. 144

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God...

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

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit... now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW Setting Five p. 163

Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION

We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you. Please follow the guidance from the ushers. Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Wine is red; grape juice is white. Those unable to come forward, remain seated and communion will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting Three p. 146

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.

Please be seated.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

MUSIC

*Joyous Light J. Wayne Kerr
 The Commission CAIN
 ELW 616 Jesus, Remember Me*

SONG

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

May Christ, who is present with you now in this meal,
journey with you on your path of discipleship. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

ELW 545 stanza 1 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

SENDING

BLESSING

Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The blessing of our merciful God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

ELW 264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna M. Burkhardt

COMMEMORATIONS

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.