

Welcome!

to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Clay Center, KS

Thank you
for joining us for worship!

Palm Sunday

March 28 & 29, 2026

Worship Folder



St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:

COMMUNION WELCOME-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Today we enter the Great and Holy Week of our faith, the very heart and center of God's greatest act since the Creation itself—the salvation of mankind by the overthrow of sin, death, and the devil, and the restoration of all creation through the power of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. As we join the crowds welcoming Jesus, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, we plan to get swept up in the drama of the story many know so well.

Peter wrote, “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13). On this day “preparing [our] minds for action” makes us as contemplate and consider what was in the mind of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem to the cheers of adults and children waving palms and shouting praise. What was our Lord thinking as He gathered His disciples for the Last Supper of Passover? As He prayed in Gethsemane's garden? When He was arrested, falsely tried, beaten, abused, and sentenced to death by crucifixion? What was in the Savior's mind as He hung on that cross? For the obvious impossibility of our ability to know the depths of the God who says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways” (Isaiah 55:8), there is one thing we can know for sure—He had you in mind. We know that “God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

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.
Lord God, as the people in Jerusalem gathered to welcome Your Son, our Lord, when He came into His holy city, so we sing of Your coming among us today with songs of praise. Keep us steadfast in our hope

and confession of faith throughout our lives that we may meet Him with grateful hearts when He comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

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

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

P 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.**

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty LSB 441 – Children Only vs. 1 – Everyone vs 2-5

When all have arrived at their place, the procession concludes:

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

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER 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.**

✠ **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?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 118:19–29

P ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

C ²⁰**This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

P ²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

C ²²**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

P ²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

C ²⁴**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P ²⁵Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!

C ²⁶**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

P ²⁷The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!

C ²⁸**You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.**

P ²⁹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

C **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even
death on a cross.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20–43

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

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

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some
Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee,
and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told
Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered
them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly,

truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it
remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life
loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal
life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there
will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me
from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father,
glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified
it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it
said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”
³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now
is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.
³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to
myself.” ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to
die. ³⁴So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that
the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must
be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵So Jesus said to them, “The
light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the
light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness
does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in
the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from
them. ³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did
not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah
might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰“He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,
lest they see with their eyes,
and understand with their heart, and turn,
and I would heal them.”

⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

⁴²Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for

fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

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

NICENE CREED

- C** I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

LSB 442

SERMON

OFFERING

Psalms 61:8 "So will I ever sing praises to Your name, as I perform my vows day after day."

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P O God, for all the joy with which the people in Jerusalem greeted Your Son that day when He entered the holy city for the final time and for all the joy we feel this day as we gather before You in praise and worship, we recall His goal that week and our great need for His accomplishment of Your will of salvation. Grant that the remembrance of His innocent suffering and death draw us nearer to You in true repentance of our sin. Give us faith that the door of mercy is still open to us with the deliverance He won on the cross, bestowing forgiveness of sin and eternal life in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. Hosanna in the highest.**

P Grant that the Good News of Your work of salvation through Your Son for the life of the world be proclaimed throughout our world today by Your holy church through faithful pastors and witnesses in every place, that many turn to You and hear Your invitation for reconciliation with You through faith in Your great goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

P Grant Your blessing and guidance to all servant-leaders in our country and in all nations, that righteousness and peace may prevail. End all conflicts or wars. Bless all institutions of learning and research. Grant success to farmers and producers of food for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer and grant Your blessing.**

P As we all contend with the challenges of living still in a fallen world, we pray for Your help and healing of all who are sick, injured, troubled in any way, those who are lonely or afraid, and all we name in our hearts before You. [*Silent prayer.*] Be the strength of the weary and the great physician of soul, mind, and spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remembering the saints that have gone before us, especially our loved ones nearest us who now rest from their labors and are with You, when our last hour comes, admit us with them into Your blessed and eternal peace and presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Solely out of His great love for all mankind and every one of God's own creation, He faithfully endured the cross, despising the shame and so paid the full price of our redemption by the shedding of His sacred blood. 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



C 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

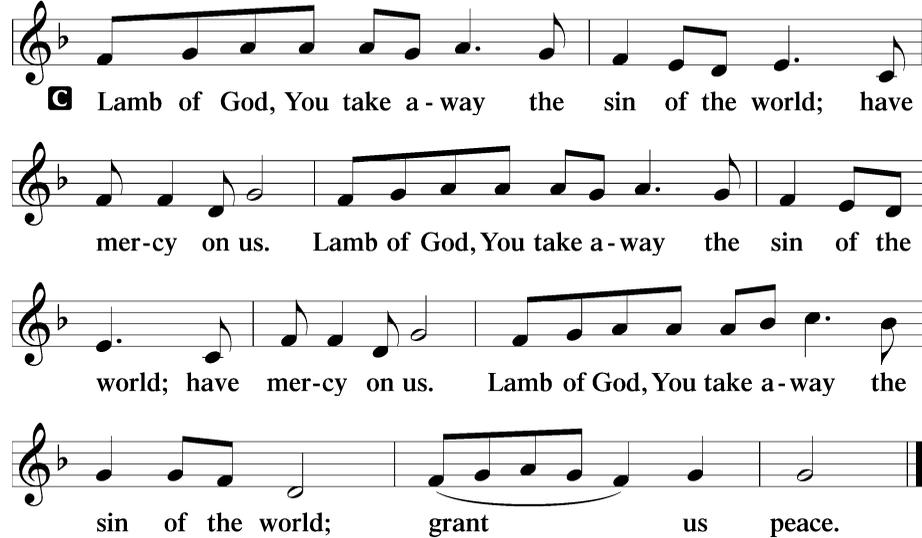
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB 420

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

LSB 634

Lift High the Cross

LSB 837

Glory Be to Jesus

LSB 433

NUNC DIMITTIS



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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

P 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.**

O Savior, Precious Savior

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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