

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

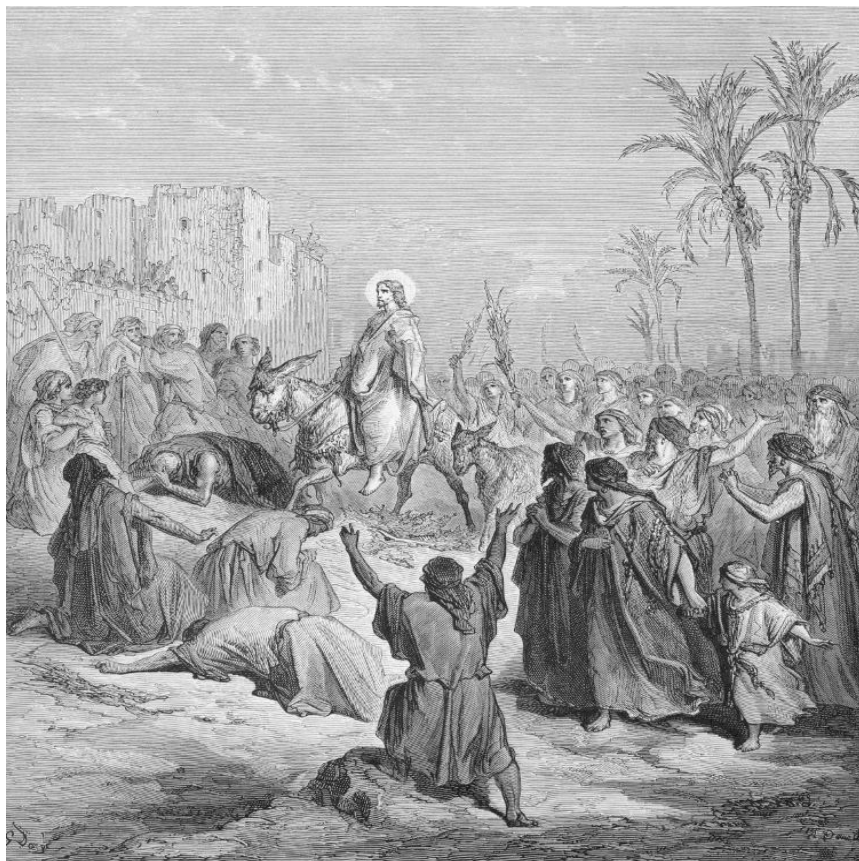
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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[www.stjbeth.org](http://www.stjbeth.org)

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St. John Ev. Lutheran Church  
119415 Huckleberry Rd  
Edgar, WI 54426



ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM

And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord... (Matthew 21: 9)

## Palm & Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

Reverend Michael Mathey, Pastor

**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Statement on Close Communion:**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor.

(CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper*, Nov 1999)

**Teaching Points Passion Sunday** - In the three-year lectionary, the Sunday before Easter. Traditionally referred to as Palm Sunday, the day commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem but then shifts focus toward the suffering that Jesus endured on our behalf. In the historic one-year series, the fifth Sunday in Lent is called "Passion Sunday."

**Life Quotes: March 29** "No place on earth should be a safer refuge for that tiny innocent child than the womb, the place of *racham*, the place of mercy. Abortion invades and destroys that refuge, that mercy, at its very source. Sadly, abortion has become a part of the brutalization of human life, a sad commentary on the cruelty of human nature." *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Life Thoughts: (Palm Sunday)** – When Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, he gave up, washed his hands, called himself innocent, and let the Innocent One, our Lord Jesus Christ, be taken away and crucified (Matthew 27:24-26). As the world around us continues to call for the death of the innocent, it may seem that we are gaining nothing, and we will be tempted to wash our hands and give up like Pilate did. But the Lord, in His mercy, has given you a tongue to speak that you may sustain with His Word those who are weary (Isaiah 50:4). God grant us the strength to speak up on behalf of the innocent ones and let "every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

## Divine Service III (Modified for Lent)

### PROCESSION OF PALMS

#### Greeting & Opening Collect

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.**

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.

**All: Amen.**

#### **The Holy Gospel: *John 12:12 – 19 (ESV)***

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So 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!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His 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. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So 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** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” LSB 442

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

**C Hosanna in the highest.**

***Bethlehem: Sunday School Children Sing***

*(A period of silence is observed to highlight the contrast between Jesus’ triumphant entry and the beginning of His passion.)*

P Let us pray, Almighty and everlasting God,...now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**Epistle:** *Philippians 2:5-11*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and 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.**

***St. John Chimes: “Above All”***

***Holy Gospel: Luke 23:1-56***

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup>And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” <sup>3</sup>And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” <sup>4</sup>Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” <sup>5</sup>But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

<sup>6</sup>When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup>And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s

jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup>When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. <sup>9</sup>So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. <sup>10</sup>The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup>And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup>And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

<sup>13</sup>Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup>and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup>Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup>I will therefore punish and release him.”

<sup>18</sup>But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— <sup>19</sup>a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup>Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup>but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup>A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>23</sup>But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup>So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup>He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

<sup>26</sup>And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup>But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ <sup>31</sup>For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his

right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” <sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

<sup>44</sup>It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup>while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” <sup>48</sup>And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup>And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

<sup>50</sup>Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, <sup>51</sup>who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup>This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup>Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. <sup>54</sup>It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup>The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup>Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Office Hymn.* “No Tramp of Soldiers’ Marching Feet” LSB 444  
Sermon

Offertory (p.192)  
Prayer of the Church

## Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.194)  
Sanctus (p.195)  
The Lord's Prayer (p.196)  
The Words of Our Lord (p.197)  
Pax Domini (p.197)  
Agnus Dei (p.198)  
Distribution of the Sacrament

### *Distribution Hymns:*

“The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”                      LSB 634  
“Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna”                                      LSB 443  
“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”                                LSB 685

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)  
Thanksgiving (p.200)  
Post Communion Collect (p.201)  
Salutation and Benediction (p.202)

*Hymn:* “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”                      LSB 441

## Announcements

### Prayers

- ❖ Remember in our prayers our Shut-ins
- ❖ Remember the centrality of God's Word as you pray: for seminarians' wives, that they would be prepared to support their husband's call into ministry and for seminarians' children, that they rejoice in the Gospel and in their father's calling.

### HOLY WEEK at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	Mar. 29	New Member Catechism Class	6:00 pm
STJ:	Mon.	Mar. 30	Quilters	9:00 am
<b>STJ:</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>April 2</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
STJ:	Thurs.	Mar. 26	Chimes	5:30pm
<b>Beth:</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>April 2</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>STJ:</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
			<b>(Devotional Service)</b>	
<b>Beth:</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
			<b>(Full Service)</b>	

### EASTER SUNDAY (next Sunday) at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun.	April 5	Easter Worship Service	8:00 am
STJ:	Sun.	April 5	Easter Worship Service	10:30 am



**Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters**

Beth: Sun. April 5 Acolyte: Aubree Kirschner  
Greeters: Michael & Marnie Neuman  
STJ: Sun. April 5 Acolyte: Cale Koch

Bethlehem Out-Reach is having **Palm Sunday Breakfast** after the church service today.



**EASTER LILY Donations!** They are \$15.00. Sign up and pay Marlene Schreiber by TODAY, Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Bethlehem Sunday School** will sing during the service, TODAY, Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Sunday School on Easter.

**St. John Sunday School Children** will be passing out palms and part of the processional on Palm Sunday. They will be playing the chimes on Easter Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.



Thank you for your prayers and concern during my recent illness. - Joanne Luther

April – June 2026 **Portals of Prayers** are available at church.

The **Bethlehem Out-Reach** WATCH FOR DETAILS FOR OUR NEXT BINGO SUNDAY!! Tentatively set for April 26<sup>th</sup>.



The **LWML, North Wisconsin Zone 10 Spring Rally** will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, WI on

Thursday, April 2, 2026. Registration begins at 5 pm with Rally starting at 5: 30 pm with devotions, Bible Study, Bridge Street Mission center presentation and business meeting. A light sandwich lunch will be served from 5: 00p to 5: 30p. Registration fee is \$5. Please see the April Newsletter for directions, and the “Gifts From the Heart Wish List”. Anyone can come to our Rally, so please come and share Christ’s good news.

**LCMS Health Ministry:** “Along the Way: A Guide to Prayer Walking” is a new resource now available at [resources.lcms.org/reading-study/along-the-way-a-guide-to-prayer-walking/](https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/along-the-way-a-guide-to-prayer-walking/). Spring is the perfect time to start or return to the habit of walking outdoors.