

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion March 29, 2026



AS WE GATHER The Mind of Christ

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).

PRELUDE *"All Glory, Laud, and Honor," arranged by Lani Smith for Piano and Organ*
WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna to the Son of David.

COLLECT

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

GOSPLE READING: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY *Matthew 21:1-11*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

21 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."

⁴ This 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,

on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And 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!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

People: in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" #442

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 50:4-9a *(The servant's obedience)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Philippians 2:5-11 *(Christ's example of humility.)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE *Philippians 2:8b*

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 26:1-27:66 *(The Passion)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 26th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED *(found on the last page of the pew hymnal)*

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” #438

SERMON *Pastor Mark Croucher*

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: 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,

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

Pastor: 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,

People: hear our prayer and grant Your blessing.

Pastor: 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, Liz, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta, and all we name in our hearts before You. Be the strength of the weary and the great physician of soul, mind, and spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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.

People: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

"Panis Angelicus (O Lord Most Holy)," by Cesar Franck, arranged for Piano and Organ by Smith and Hustad

Please stand as you are able

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

♪ **Ho-ly; ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name
Sing hosanna in the highest sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: 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.

People: ♪ **Amen**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: 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

Matthew 6:9–13

PAX DOMINI

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

People: ♪ Amen

AGNUS DEI *pew hymnal #210*

♪ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

"A Lenten Prelude for Flute and Organ," setting by Charles Callahan

Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS *pew hymnal #211*

♪ O Lord, now let Your servant, depart in heav'nly peace.
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace;
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill;
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the church. By Your Holy Spirit, help us to grow in faith and fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do as Your witnesses in our time; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

People: ♪ A-men

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: 🎵 **A-men**

HYMN "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet" #444

POSTLUDE

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," arranged by Gilbert Martin for Piano and Organ

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
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THE MESSENGER

March 29, 2026

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Pr. Mark Croucher
Linda Rayburn, Organist
Dan Henggeler, Piano
Beth Behrens, Flute
Mike Thompson, Percussion

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler, and Luetta Buchholz.

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: 15 Total, 0 Guests

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, April 5th is "**You Don't Know What You Have Till It's Gone**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Death is the enemy of life, but in Jesus, God made death become life's servant. 1 Corinthians 15:26 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.