

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.mttaborlutheran.org



9:15 AM - March 29, 2026 - Palm Sunday

ALIVE! Worship Service

INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING (outside)

BLESSING OF PALMS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Pave the Way with Branches

verses 1, 3, 5 & 1

* Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.

Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.

Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -

The image shows a musical score for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key with one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace." The score includes first and second endings, indicated by '1' and '2' above the staff lines.

**Additional verses ad lib.:*
 Release for the captives . . .
 Hope for the downtrod . . .
 Land for the landless . . .
 Debts are forgiven . . .

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957
 Music: PAVE THE WAY, Bret Hesla
 Text and music © 1999 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYERS

ANTHEM

Open the Gates
Seraph Singers

Hal H. Hopson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

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. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Blessed Be the One

The musical score is written in a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord." The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The music concludes with a final cadence in the bass line.

Text: Psalm 118:26
Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977
Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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A READING

Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and 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.

PSALM HYMN

Make Your Face to Shine

Em B7 Em

Make your face to shine up - on your ser - vant, and
 Haz res - plan - de - cer tu ros - tro so - bre tu sier - vo(a);

Cmaj7 D Em

in your lov - ing - kind - ness save me. Make your
 ¡sál - va - me por tu mi - se - ri - cor - dia! Haz res -

Em Am D G Em

save me. But as for me, I trust in you, O Lord.
 cor - dia! Mas yo en ti, Jeho - vá, con - fi - o;

C B7 Em E Am D

I have said, "You are my God. My times are in your
 di - go: "¡Tú e - res mi Dios. En tu ma - no es - tán mis

G Em C B7 Em

hand, O God. You de - liv - er me."
 tiem - pos! Tú e - res mi Dios".

These selected verses of Psalm 31 are slightly reordered here (as 16, 14–15) to give initial emphasis to the petition for God’s favor, expressed in the typical Hebraic image of a radiant face. That plea is then reinforced by affirmations of the psalmist’s unwavering trust in God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus enters Jerusalem

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Wade Roof

ANTHEM

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

Baloche & Brown/arr. Hayes

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Musical score for the Offertory "Jesus, Name Above All Names". The score is written in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em - man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re - deem - er, liv - ing Word." The chords indicated above the notes are: D, F#m7, Em7, A, D, F#m7, Em7, A7, (D), G/A, A.

Text and music: Patricia Cain
Text and music © 1974 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

Today we joyfully welcome these children to the altar for their First Communion.
We give thanks for their faith and pray that God will continue to strengthen them in His grace.

Welcome to the Lord's Table.

John Allan Cothran, Raelyn Driggers, Layla Gibbons, Stan-Lee Rybicki and Logan Smith

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

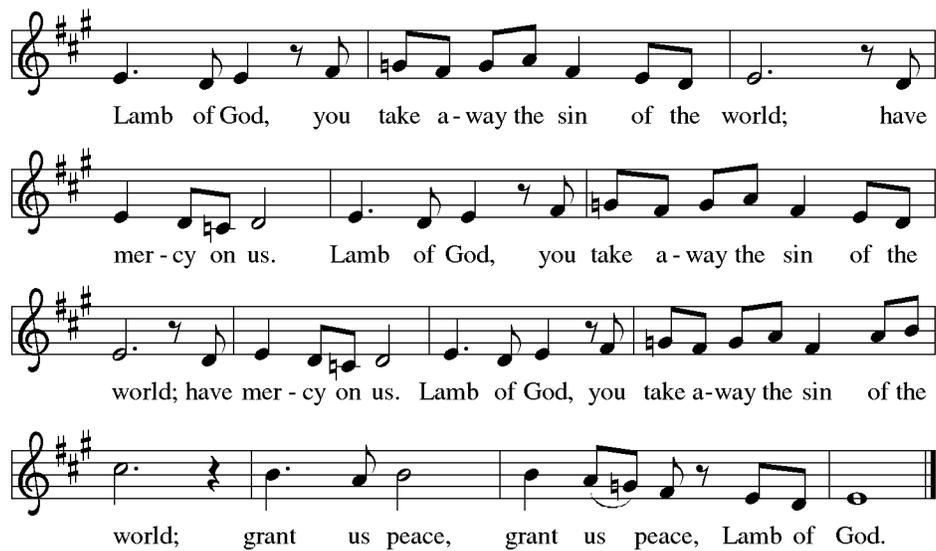
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

The Magnificat – Holden Evening Prayer

All



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

The Lamb
verses 1-3



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill.
4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
So still, his will on our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!



The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne!

Text: Gerald Patrick Coleman
Music: WINTER, Gerald Patrick Coleman

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Now Behold the Lamb



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Text: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970
Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB, Kirk Franklin
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DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

ALIVE! Musicians

Gale McLeod, Co-Director

Lyndsey Ebener

Ricky Lusk

Irelou Moye, Co-Director

David Moye

Julie Ann Payne

Beth Branham

Erin Hall

Ed Redmond

Leah Conrad

Vaughn Hall

Roxanne Rich

Brett Ebener

Steve Hamilton

Sarah Smith

Clark Ebener

Stephanie Liscusky

Jessica Gibbons

Worship Assistants

Communion assistant..... Kevin Davis
Lector Nancy Smith
Greeter Grace Fuson
Usher Ray Conrad
Acolyte KateLynn Parker
Livestream coordinators Pam Hoskins, Kendrick Kerr



The vases of greenery placed on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jolene Marchant, whose birthday is today. They are also given in celebration of the birth of our first grandchild, Charles “Charlie” Jason Epting, by Mitzi and Charles Epting.

Today’s processional cross flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harry and Elizabeth Manus by their family.



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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience amid persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

- ⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
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 up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

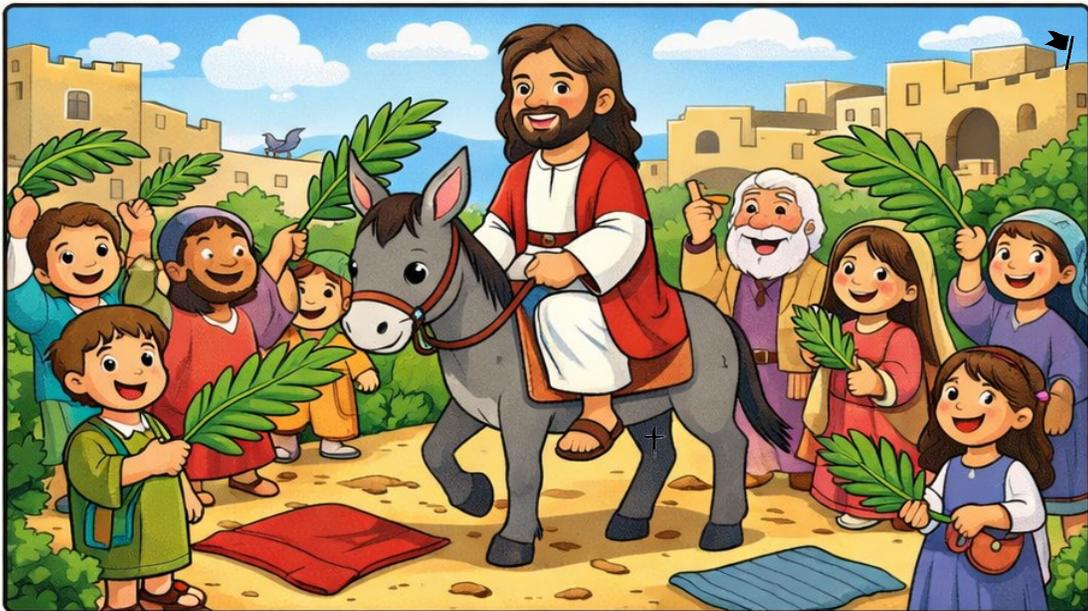
Psalm 31:9-16

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

Palm Sunday

Spot the Difference!

Can you find 7 differences between the two pictures? Circle the changes you find!



Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Betty Jo Cato, Stephen Roos, Dennis Shealy, Virginia Hamson, Andrew McQuillen, Elizabeth Caulder, Rus Stilwell, Cory Smith.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Michael Gayden, Tammy Quarles, Sally Kleber, James Campbell, Earl Macaulay, JoEllen Anderson, Nancy Smith, Jeanie & Paul Jacobs, Murray Hoskins, Paul Dufries, Karen Holton

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Sandra Baker, Natalie Cook, Carolyn Dufries, Pastor Lavaughn Keisler, John Conrad, Bruce Merchant, Judy Jordan, Luther Swicegood, Alice Pollock, Jimmy Williams, Mona Myers, Sadie Howard, Elmer Sundlie, Emma Lou Easley, Paul Addy, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Linda Wright, John Jowers, Beth Franklin, Ronnie Crim, Shirley Spruill, Russell Altman, Tim Hopkins, Eddie Porter, Eddie Broughman, Trace Wingard, Julie Johnson, Lewis Tankersley, Danny Baker, Suzanne Oxner Stello, Dr. Chris Wicker, William & Janet Wood, Judy Lazarczyk, Robbie Burgess, Ronnie Boland, Tonia Boland, Andy Rauch, Peggy Roessler, John Bailey, John Sharpe, Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Bobby Brown, Steve Blake, Zach Wash, Tyler Corbitt, Nancy Waugh, Emily Waugh, Sam Waugh, Laura Ann Merrill, Anne Moyer

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, Alex Morris

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Justin Casteel, Cory Fabian, Zachery Gayden, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Caleb Neff

Family of:

Claudia Medlin, Grace Kelly

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music