

March 29, 2026



PALM Sunday

"Hosanna!
Blessed is He
who comes in the name
of the Lord, indeed the
King of Israel!"

John 12:13, NASB



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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND WAVING OF THE PALMS

Prepare the Royal Highway ELW #264

(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE - *Have Mercy*

ELW page 203

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

***Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ELW #338**

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.**

**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.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally especially Bishop Hassanally and all pastors, deacons and lay preachers of the Southeast Minnesota Synod. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

“AT THE TABLE”

By Tracy Wells

This play is a collection of monologues and duets that depict the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to The Last Supper through the voices of the disciples and others who encountered Jesus that week. It is told as Jesus and his disciples gather in the upper room for the Passover Feast.

Andrew-Pastor Sam Mailleue

Joanna (merchant)-Liz Osborne

Abigail (farmer’s daughter)-Edrie Barton

Martha-Jennifer Weick

Peter-Jamison Vanden Einde

Jesus-Rick Perkins

John-John Miller

Matthew-Vic Pengilly

Shifra (wife of the owner of the upper room)-Rachel Wagner

James-Andy Montag

Philip-Miles Heille

Judas-Dave Nelson

Mary-Rita Patria

Other disciples-Steve Alinder, Mike Johnson, Bob Patrias, Adam St. Pierre and
Mark Sullivan

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

CLOSING HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane **ELW #347**

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BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence,

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,

✝ bless you now and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



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Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560

Expires 12/15/2027

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are truly blessed to have members who said yes to participation in today's presentation of AT THE TABLE. Thank you cast members for sharing your time and talents in order to tell the story of the days leading to Jesus' death on the cross. May this prepare our hearts and minds for the glorious celebration of Easter.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
3-22-2026	\$2,390	\$4,542
YTD	\$63,408	\$58,798

Worship Assistants

March 29, 2026

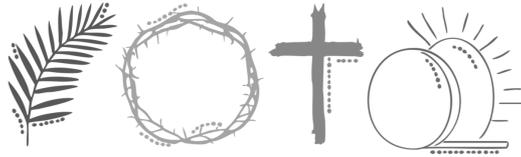
Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Garret Handy
Reader:
Usher: Steve Olson
Greeters:
Council Member: Joan May
Fellowship: Miller Family
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Offering Counters: Dave Johnson
Bob Patrias
Altar Guild: Bob & Rita Patrias

April 2, 2026 (Maundy Thursday)

Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Malcolm Mailleue
Reader: Joan May
Usher: Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters: Bruns Family
Communion Asst: LeRoy & Joan May
Council Member: Lynnea Libra
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Altar Guild: Bob & Rita Patrias

April 5, 2026

Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Lyndon Rassmussen
Reader: Edrie Barton
Usher: Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:
Communion Asst: John Miller
Joan May
Shawn & Jennifer Weick
Council Member: Callie Greisen
Fellowship:
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Offering Counters: John Miller
Bob Patrias
Altar Guild: Bob & Rita Patrias

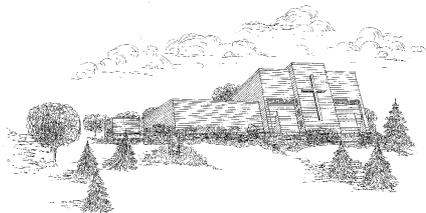


Palm Sunday, March 29—9am Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 2—6:30pm Worship w/Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3—6:30pm Worship at Zion UCC

Easter Sunday, April 5—9am Worship w/Holy Communion



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, March 29	9:00a 10:15a	Worship Bible Study with Pr. Sam
Wednesday, April 1	9:00a	Staff Meeting
Thursday, April 2	6:30p	Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion
Friday, April 3	6:30p	Good Friday Worship at Zion UCC
Sunday, April 5	9:00a	Worship with Holy Communion

Hosanna!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
As we wave our palm branches in praise, we remember
the King who entered Jerusalem in humility and love.
May our hearts welcome Him anew this Holy Week.

*"Rejoice greatly... See, your king comes to you, righteous
and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey."*

—Zechariah 9:9 (NIV)