



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI  
Sunday of the Passion  
Palm Sunday  
March 22, 2026  
10:15 AM  
**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's  
Family In Spreading God's Love and  
Mercy**

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.

### **Processional Gospel**

#### **A reading from Matthew 21:1-11**

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."

## PROCESSION WITH PALMS

### Processional Hymn

### All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes, Maevis Shock; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson and Duke Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter and Jaxson Puhl; Eason Kelbel; Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Luke and Joelle Kroeger; Peyton Oelson, Greyson Resop; Dakota Adams; Kendall Christopherson, Hudson Birkholz; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Dominic Young; Avilynn McNamer; Ayla Arndt; Lainey Myers; Rylan and Tucker McCarthy.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for children throughout the world, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

## CALENDAR, cont'd.

Sun., April 12	Sunday School Worship	9:00 am 10:15 am
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DINNER TICKETS

We are ordering the minimum 300 plates which gives us the best opportunity to raise \$2,250.00 toward the purchase of a new sign. As of right now, we are lucky to have 100 tickets sold. The idea is to raise money, not buy extra meals and give them to the needy, at least not this time. So then, please get a minimum of one book of tickets to sell from Nalani. THANKS!

### DONKEY

Thank you to Esta Parrish for letting us use her donkey for the palm processional. If you should see Esta, please thank her personally.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12—Assistant to the Bishop Dionne leading service  
Chicken Dinner  
May 3—Recognition of high school graduate  
May 10—Mother's Day  
May 17—Last day of Sunday school for this term  
May 25—Memorial Day

You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. *Refrain*

To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

## Gathering

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

Hymn “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” ELW#752

### 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.

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 disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious  
God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**Thanks be to God  
for this good, good news. Amen.**

Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” ELW#351

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Linda, Jeremy Munson, Gordy O’Rourke, Larry Arndt,  
Kristy Gwin Solovey, Marilyn O’Rourke, Nick Evans, Collin  
Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk, Nikki Fronk Lewis,  
Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce, Brian, Alice Leis, Darlene Diekrager,  
Jack Arndt, Daniel Paulson, Diane Hornburger, Mike Escutia,  
Marie Jacobson, Rick Brandau, Nora Martin.

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen  
Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Ornes  
Communion Server: Barb Ornes/Acolytes

### CALENDAR

Thurs., April 2	Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm
Friday, April 3	Good Friday	6:30 pm
	Prayer Vigil	7:30 pm — 9:00 pm
Sat., April 4	PrayerVigil	7:00 am — 4:00 pm
Sun., April 5	Easter Sunrise	6:30 am
	Sunrise Breakfast	7:30 am — 9:30 am

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.*

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation,  
**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

As you leave this place,  
**When you meet anger, speak with love.  
When you meet fear, speak with hope.  
When you meet pain, speak of gentleness.  
But no matter what, speak this good news.  
For the good news of the gospel is  
love and justice for all.  
It is joy that surprises,  
And nonviolence that transforms.  
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,  
so go forth speaking.  
For if you won't, then who will?**

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.**

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**

## Prayer of the Day:

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 obedi-  
ence to your will and in the glorious victory of his resur-  
rection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

### A reading from Isaiah 50:4-9a

- <sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
a trained tongue,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he awakens,  
awakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> 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;
- <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?

**the hungry and the downtrodden.**

We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us  
**that all are welcomed, all are celebrated,  
all are loved, and all are claimed.**

Pull up a seat at God's table.

**There is good news to be shared here.**

**Amen.**

### Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

### Words of Institution

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, 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.**

## OFFERING

### Offertory Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

## OFFERING 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.  
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.

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We believe in a table-setting God  
who always has a seat saved for you.  
We believe in an inviting God  
who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.  
We believe in a radically welcoming God  
Who eats with the overlooked and the outcast,

Let us stand in court together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

## Psalm 31:9-16

- <sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my  
throat and my belly.
- <sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with  
sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my  
bones are consumed.**
- <sup>11</sup> 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.
- <sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- <sup>13</sup> 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.
- <sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You are my God.**
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from  
those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."**

## SECOND READING

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

### A reading from Philippians 2:5-11

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

## The Passion of Our Lord According to Matthew

Hymn            “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”            ELW#338

### \*APOSTLE'S 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.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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