



PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026

As We Gather

Today marks a turning point. The songs of Lent do not end, but they change key. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd sings with hope while He walks with purpose.

This message invites us to follow Christ forward —not because the road is easy, but because He goes on ahead of us into suffering, obedience, and salvation.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

The children gather in the back of church

Greeting

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.**

Collect

P 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.

C **Amen. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

The children parade around the congregation waving palm branches as we sing.

Hymn

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (LSB 443) *sts. 1, 3*

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

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Children go to their seats

Sit

WORD

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9–12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall speak peace to the nations;

his rule shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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 made himself nothing, 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh chapters.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken
(LSB 439) *st. 12*

Sermon Series: Hope in the Dark

Sermon Title: He Goes On Ahead of Us *Matthew 21:1–11*

Offering

O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace (LSB 693) *sts. 1, 3*

1 O Holy Spirit, grant us grace
That we our Lord and Savior
In faith and fervent love embrace
And truly serve Him ever.
The hour of death cannot bring loss
When we are sheltered by the cross
That canceled our transgressions.

3 And when our earthly race is run,
Death's bitter hour impending,
Then may Thy work in us begun
Continue till life's ending,
Until we gladly may commend
Our souls into our Savior's hand,
The crown of life obtaining.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

P ... Lord in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.



✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 194-202 in the hymnal.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 195

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

Distribution Hymns

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty (LSB 441)
Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (LSB 563)
All Glory, Laud, and Honor (LSB 442)
Not All the Blood of Beasts (LSB 431)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are ✠ forgiven you.

C Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Salutation

LSB 201

Benedicamus

Benediction

LSB 202

Closing Hymn *My Song Is Love Unknown (LSB 430) sts. 1, 6–7*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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