

# Palm Passion Sunday Worship

March 29, 2026  
9:00am



**Good Shepherd**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
651-451-6225  
[www.goodshepherdigh.com](http://www.goodshepherdigh.com)

## Welcome to Worship

### Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love

#### GATHER IN THE COMMONS

*\*Sanctuary doors remain closed. Palm distribution. Please don't clap for special music.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**C. Hosanna in the highest.**

#### PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. He said to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them." He sent them off right away. Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, *Say to Daughter Zion, "Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey's offspring."* The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, "*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*" And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. "Who is this?" they asked. The crowds answered, "It's the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

**C. Hosanna in the highest.**

#### BLESSING THE PALMS

P. The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us pray,

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

L. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C. Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL SONG

*"How Great is Our God"*

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty; let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice. He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide, and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.**

*Refrain:*      **How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands; beginning and the end, beginning and the end. The God-head, three-in-one, Father, Spirit, Son, the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.** *Chorus*

**Name above all names, worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: How great is our God!  
Name above all names, worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: How great is our God!**  
*Chorus*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SONG            *"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.**

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P. Gathered by the Holy Spirit and renewed in the Word,  
let us pray to our merciful God for the needs of the world.

*After each petition of the prayers:*

P. Lord in your mercy.

C. **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING RECEIVED

*Starts & stays in the back*

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

SONG            *"Lamb of God"*

**Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.**

*Refrain:*        **O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.  
Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died. The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain***

**I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain***

SONG            *"My Song is Love Unknown"*

**My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

**He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know. But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!**

**Sometimes we strew his way and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day hosannas to our king. Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P.    May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C.    **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC            *"All Hail King Jesus"*    *Congregation joins on last All Hail King Jesus*  
**All hail King Jesus. All hail the Lord of Heaven and earth. All hail King Jesus.  
All hail the Savior of the word.**

READING THE PASSION    John 18:1-19, 42

*(The congregation will read in unison the part of the People)*

Narrator: Jesus went forth with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them,

Jesus:    Whom do you seek?

Narrator: They answered him,

People:    **Jesus of Nazareth.**

Narrator: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: I am He.

Narrator: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

Jesus: Whom do you seek?

Narrator: And they said,

People: **Jesus of Nazareth.**

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go.

Narrator: This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken, "Of those whom thou gavest me I lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: Put your sword in its sheath; shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?

Narrator: So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

(Tone)

REFLECTION QUESTION *Pastor begins after a 3 second pause*

P. Judas betrayed Jesus and forgot who he was as a Child of God.

In what ways do you forget who you are as a Child of God and let the world define you instead? (Fade tone after silence for reflection)

Narrator: Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. The maid who kept the door said to Peter,

Maid: Are not you also one of this man's disciples?

Narrator: He said,

Peter: I am not.

Narrator: Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him,

Jesus: I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said.

Narrator: When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

Officer: Is that how you answer the high priest?

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

Narrator: Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him,

People: **Are you not also one of his disciples?**

Narrator: He denied it and said,

Peter: I am not.

Narrator: One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

Servant: Did I not see you in the garden with him?

Narrator: Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

(Tone)

REFLECTION QUESTION *Pastor begins after a 3 second pause*

P. Peter denied Jesus three times.

In what ways do you deny Jesus by your words and/or actions?

(Fade tone after silence for reflection)

Narrator: Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

Pilate: What accusation do you bring against this man?

Narrator: They answered him,

People: **If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over.**

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.

Narrator: The Jews said to him,

People: **It is not lawful for us to put any man to death.**

Narrator: This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die. Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Pilate: Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priest have handed you over to me; what have you done?

Narrator: Pilate said to him,

Pilates: So you are a king?

Jesus: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.

Narrator: Pilate said to him.

Pilate: What is the truth?

Narrator: After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them,

Pilate: I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: They cried out again,

People: **Not this man, but Barabbas!**

Narrator: Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying,

People: **Hail, King of the Jews!**

Narrator: and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them,

Pilate: See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him.

Narrator: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Behold the man!

Narrator: When the chief priest and the officers saw him, they cried out,

People: **Crucify him, crucify him!**

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.

Narrator: The Jews answered him,

People: **We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.**

Narrator: When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus,

Pilate: Where are you from?

Narrator: But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,

Pilate: You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore, he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.

Narrator: Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

People: **If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.**

Narrator: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

Pilate: Behold your King!

Narrator: They cried out,

People: **Away with him, away with him, crucify him!**

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Shall I crucify your King?

Narrator: The chief priests answered,

People: **We have no king but Caesar.**

Narrator: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of the skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate,

People: **Do not write, “The King of the Jews,” but, “This man said, I am King of the Jews.”**

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Pilate: What I have written I have written.

(Tone)

REFLECTION QUESTION *Pastor begins after a 3 second pause*

P. Pilate and the crowd tried to control what would happen to Jesus.

In what ways do you try to control God instead of trusting Him with your life?

(Fade tone after silence for reflection)

Narrator: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another.

People: **Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.**

Narrator: This was to fulfill the scripture, “They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother,

Jesus: Woman, behold your son!

Narrator: Then he said to the disciple

Jesus: Behold, your mother!

Narrator: And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said

Jesus: I thirst.

Narrator: A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said,

Jesus: It is finished.

Narrator: and he bowed his head and gave up his life.

*(Silence for Reflection, Pastors the Front)*

SONG *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”* *Characters exit once words begin*  
**How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure. That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring all of us to glory.**

*Pastors exit*

**Behold the man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders. Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast of anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom. But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.**

**Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom. His wounds have paid my ransom.**

**BLESSING**

**P. Jesus took the form of a servant and was obedient to death, even death on a cross. May you follow his example and share in the resurrection.**

**P. May the God of all grace;  
Father,  
Son & Holy Spirit bless you. Now and forever.**

**C. Amen.**

**P. Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

**C. Thanks be to God.**