

Hosanna to the Son of David

MATTHEW 21:9



Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.



Grace Lutheran Church

313 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 356-6232 • office@glccu.org

www.glccu.org • Pastor: Chris Repp

Welcome to Grace!

At Grace Lutheran Church, we strive to be a community of acceptance, reconciliation and hope. Following in the way of Jesus, we welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. God's acceptance of all compels us to stand against racism, sexism and all forms of hate and prejudice. We welcome your questions, your gifts, and your being.

Connecting People to God, One Another, and the World

We believe that God is at work in this worship service, through Word and Sacrament, to create and sustain faith in God's promises of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and to bless us to be blessings. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates to the early days of Christianity. We recognize that it comes with a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. This way of worshipping may also include postures like standing and kneeling that may not be possible or comfortable for everyone. Please know that you are welcome to do what works for you.

KEY TO THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

Bold type: spoken by the people

Regular Italics: sung/chanted by a leader

Bold Italics: sung/chanted by the people

Small Italics: liturgical directions and information

✙ the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

ACS: All Creation Sings (Purple Hymnal)

♪ Favorite Hymn request

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

- Restrooms are down the hall to the left of the entrance, opposite the elevator.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the sanctuary windowsills.
- Large print bulletins are available
- Please sign our guest book at the entrance.

As We Gather:

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

Prelude

Each worshiper should have a palm branch distributed by the ushers. Please gather in the Narthex before the service. We will process into the Sanctuary singing the Processional Refrain.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The assembly, led by the choir, sings the following processional refrain three times:

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

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

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Procession

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The congregation processes into the sanctuary, waving their palm branches and singing the processional refrain until all have reached their seats.

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

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

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Gathering Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

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.

The assembly is seated.

Word

Children's Sermon

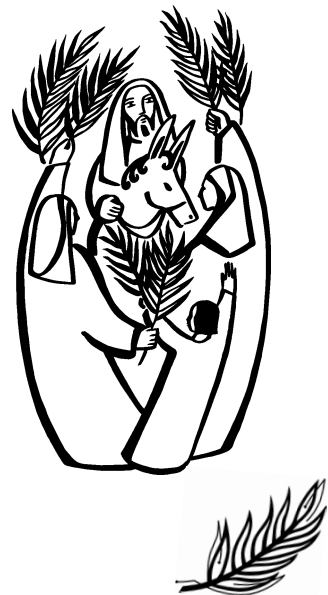
Pastor Janet Lepp

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

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.

- ⁴ 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 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 in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

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.”

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

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.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Procession



Tree of Life and awe-some mys - t'ry, in your
death we are re - born; though you die in all of his - t'ry, still you
rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn.

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the
riv - er, you the sea.

The assembly is seated.

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

ELW 346



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
 pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!



Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The assembly kneels or is seated. Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
Trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our savior.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. After the Peace, the assembly is seated.



Meal

Offering

Please place your offering in the plate on the table in the aisle as you leave.
You may also give online at <http://glccu.org/donate> or scan the QR code with your photos app to connect to the donation page on the GLC website.



Offertory

Ride On, King Jesus

arr. Howard Helvey

*He is King of Kings, He is Lord of Lords,
Jesus Christ, the First and Last; no man a-works like Him.*

King Jesus rides a milk-white horse; No man a-works like Him.

River of Jordan; no man like Him.

King Jesus rides in the middle of the air; no man a-works like Him.

He calls the saints from ev'rywhere; no man a-works like Him.

“Ride On, King Jesus” is especially fitting for Palm Sunday because it centers on Christ’s kingship, echoing the crowd’s acclamation during the triumphal entry as they welcomed Him with palm branches and shouts of praise. The anthem’s driving rhythms, call-and-response textures, and rising intensity musically mirror the movement and energy of a procession, allowing a choir to embody the sense of anticipation and communal celebration found in the Gospel narratives. At a deeper level, the text’s insistence that “no man can hinder me” reflects not only the authority of Christ as He enters Jerusalem but also the inevitability of His redemptive mission, subtly connecting the joy of Palm Sunday with the solemn events of Holy Week that follow.

The assembly stands.

Offering Verse *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

O God, 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, that we may bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

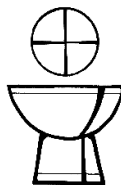
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

✠ Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.



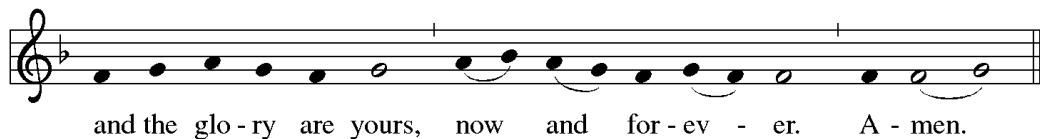
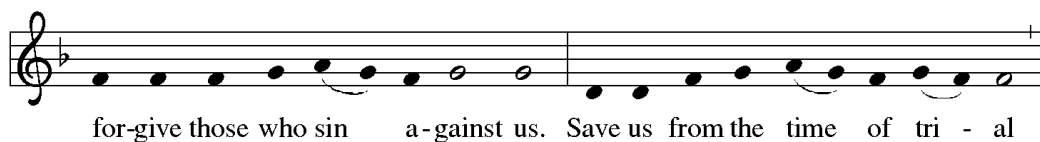
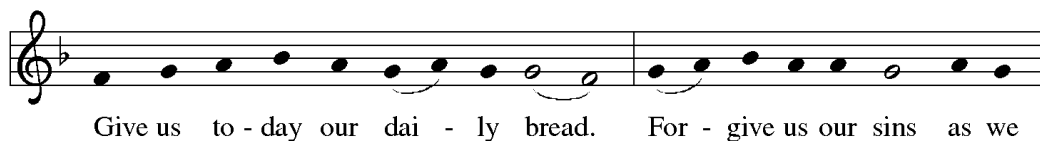
Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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



The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, forming us into his body for the sake of the world. We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized Christians. Those who are not baptized we invite to explore with us the Christian faith and consider baptism. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please hold this bulletin in your hands as a sign that you would like a blessing.

To receive communion, please join the line in the center aisle and proceed to the pastor. (Note: gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) After receiving the bread, proceed to your left or right to receive the wine, taking a pre-filled glass from the tray. (Grape juice is also available.) Place your used glass in the basket provided near the stairs on the side you leave.

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. A - men.

Communion Hymn *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

ELW 345

1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
 2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
 4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,

let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
 bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
 but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
 nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.

Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
 make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
 For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
 May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,

of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
 how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
 this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

The assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

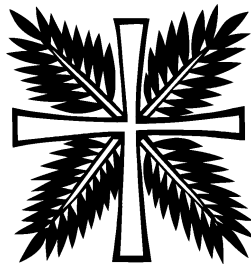
Sending

(Sending Of Communion)

A prayer may be said for the sending of communion to those who are absent.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.



Sending Hymn

Sing, My Tongue vv. 1-4, 7

ELW 356



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; tell the tri - umph
 2 God in mer - cy saw us fall - en, sunk in shame and
 3 Tell how, when at length the full - ness of the ap - point - ed
 4 Thir - ty years a - mong us dwell - ing, Je - sus went from
 5 Bend your boughs, O tree of glo - ry, your re - lax - ing



far and wide; tell a - loud the won - drous sto - ry
 mis - er - y, felled to death in E - den's gar - den,
 time was come, Christ, the Word, was born of wom - an,
 Naz - a - reth, des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,
 sin - ews bend; for a while the an - cient rig - or



of the cross, the Cru - ci - fied; tell how Christ, the
 where in pride we claimed the tree; then an - oth - er
 left for us the heav'n - ly home, blazed the path of
 did his work, and met his death; like a lamb he
 that your birth be - stowed, sus - pend; and the Lord of



world's re - deem - er, van - quished death the day he died.
 tree was cho - sen, which the world from death would free.
 true o - be - dience, shone as light a - midst the gloom.
 hum - bly yield - ed on the cross his dy - ing breath.
 heav'n - ly beau - ty gent - ly on your arms ex - tend.

6 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
 be for all the noblest tree;
 none in foliage, none in blossom,
 none in fruit your equal be;
 symbol of the world's redemption,
 for your burden makes us free.

7 Unto God be praise and glory;
 to the Father and the Son,
 to the eternal Spirit honor
 now and evermore be done;
 praise and glory in the highest,
 while the timeless ages run.

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Valet will ich dir geben (ELW 344)

J.S. Bach

Worship Support

The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Janet Lepp	Livestream:	Michael Miller
Assisting Minister:	Dennis Archer	Sound Technician:	Kevin Vail
Reader:	Jack Wilkie	Music Director:	Nicholas Pierle
Deacon:	Dan Lepp	Organist:	Mike Keeley
Greeters:	Erick & Meg Loven	Office Assistant:	Karen Maher
Ushers:	Dave & Carol Larson	Coffee Hour:	Dave & Carol Larson

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