Palm Sunday

Holy Communion – 10:00 am

March 29, 2026

Shepherd of the Mountains
Lutheran Church

WELCOME TO SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Holy Week is the octave (eight-day period) from Passion Sunday through Easter. Some will recall that the first day was familiar as *Palm Sunday*, but the liturgical churches have reclaimed its more ancient name of *Passion Sunday*, to reflect the tradition of reading the story of our Lord's passion on that day. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week have their own assigned readings from the Passion Narratives.

The *Triduum* (literally, the three days) includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin word *to command* (mandamus), recalling our Lord's commandment to celebrate his death and resurrection in the simple meal of bread and wine. Good Friday is named paradoxically (a man dies on this day, and it is *good*?), only because of the good that comes out it. Holy Saturday is often observed with silent retreats in churches to remember the silence of the tomb.

Whether you are a first-time guest, a regular friend or member, we hope that the Gospel finds you today. We encourage all persons to actively share in the worship of Almighty God, in hearing the Word read and preached, and in receiving the Word of Life in the Holy Communion.

For our guests:
We encourage the participation of children in our worship. Drawing materials are available in the church, and there are spaces available in the church for children who need to move!

GATHERING

GREETING *Repeated one or more times:*

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

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

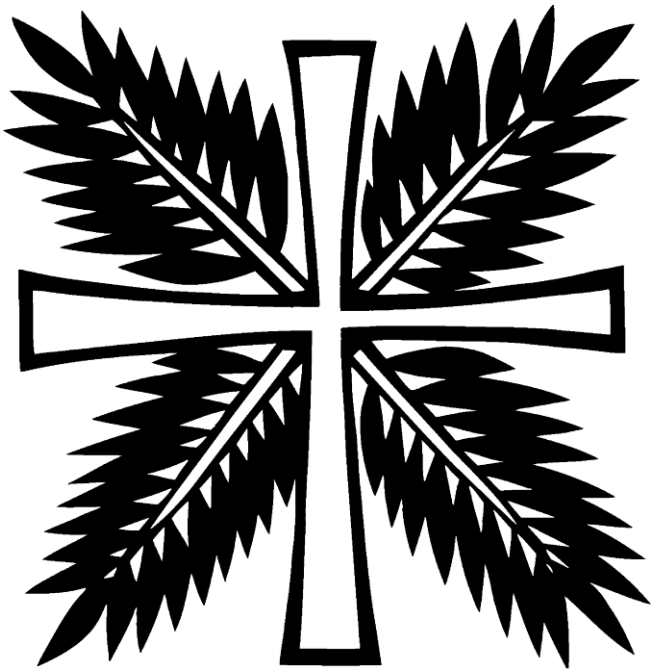
We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

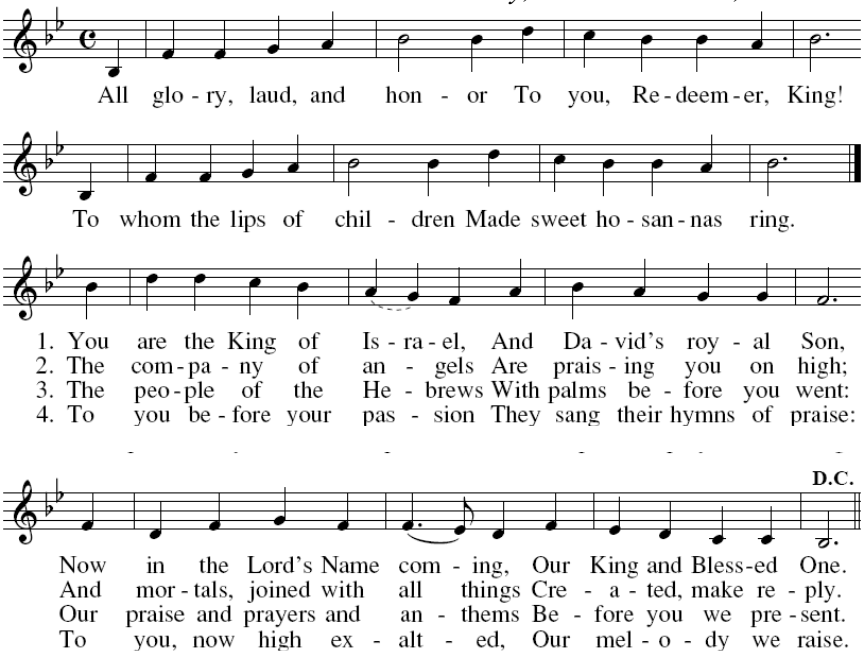
Bless these branches and those who carry them.

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.

C Amen.



GATHERING SONG *All Glory, Laud and Honor,* ELW 344



Text: *Gloria, laus et honor;* Theodulph of Orleans, c.760-821; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Tune: ST. THEODULPH, 7 6 7 6 D; Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

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

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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 obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 50:4-9a

4 The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
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 up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
9 It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

R The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 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 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 LESSON Philippians 2:5-11

[5]Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
[6]who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
[7]but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
[8]he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.

[9]Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
[10]so that at the name of 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.

R The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 26:14—27:66

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* ELW 351

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great

A 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.

C Your mercy is great

A 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.

C Your mercy is great

A 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.

C **Your mercy is great**

P 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. Hear us, O God.

C **receive our prayer.**

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

C **Amen.**

MEAL

PEACE

The people greet each other with the peace of Christ.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

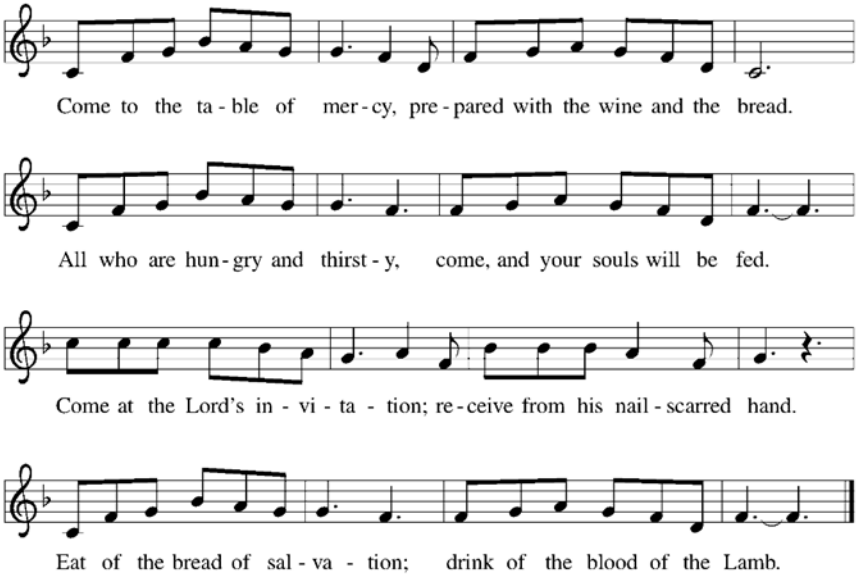
OFFERING

The offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared.

Cash, check and online donations are all welcome
Thank you for your generosity!

Scan to donate online via Tithe.ly

COME TO THE TABLE



Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A 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.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The pastor greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

BLESSING OF BREAD AND WINE

LORD'S PRAYER

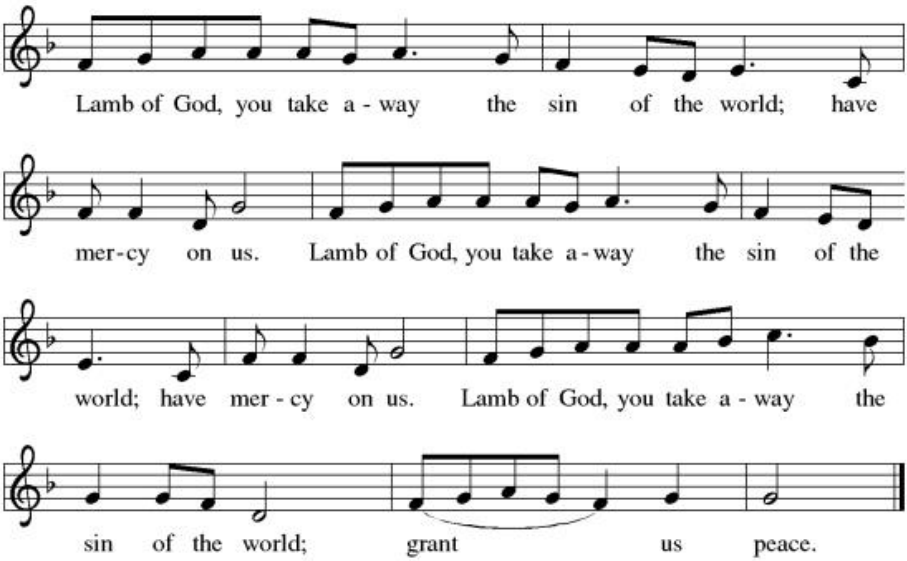
C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

FOR COMMUNION

All are welcome to come forward for Holy Communion. You do not need to be Lutheran, you do not need to be a member of Shepherd of the Mountains, and you do not need to worry about whether you commune in your own church. Gluten free wafers are available. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond:
✠ Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and
grant to you His peace.
All mighty God ✠ Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen

SENDING

SENDING SONG *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ELW 338

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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Contact Pastor Derek Fossey: pastor@sompc.org

Shepherd of the Mountains Mission Statement

"With open doors, minds, and hearts, we invite all to experience the joy of God's love through worship, community, and service."

When we say all are welcome, we really mean it!

"As all people are created in the image of God, we embrace diversity in our congregation and community, and we affirm the dignity and worth of every person.
We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's unconditional love and we are committed to racial equity.
We boldly embrace, love, celebrate and welcome persons of all faith backgrounds, races, ethnicities, cultures, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.
Everyone has a place here.
All are Welcome!

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

RECONCILING IN CHRIST