

Sunday Worship

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

My Song is Love Unknown

Arr: Burkhardt

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This 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.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

BLESSING OF THE PALMS (*The congregation raises their palm branches.*)

P: The Lord be with you.

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

C: Amen.

HYMN Red hymnal #344

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.

- 1. You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain***
- 2. The company of angels are praising you on high; creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain***
- 3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain***
- 4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain***
- 5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain***

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

C: Hosanna in the highest.

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . .

C: 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

CHANCEL CHOIR Director Susie Gray *Gather By The River to Pray*
Composer: Pepper Choplin

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #264 (vs. 1)

C: **Prepare the royal highway; the King of Kings is near!**
 Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
 Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
 Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 26:14-27:66

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Pastor will read the Gospel

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Jaren Summers

HYMN Red hymnal #342

There in God's Garden

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe 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 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 again 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.

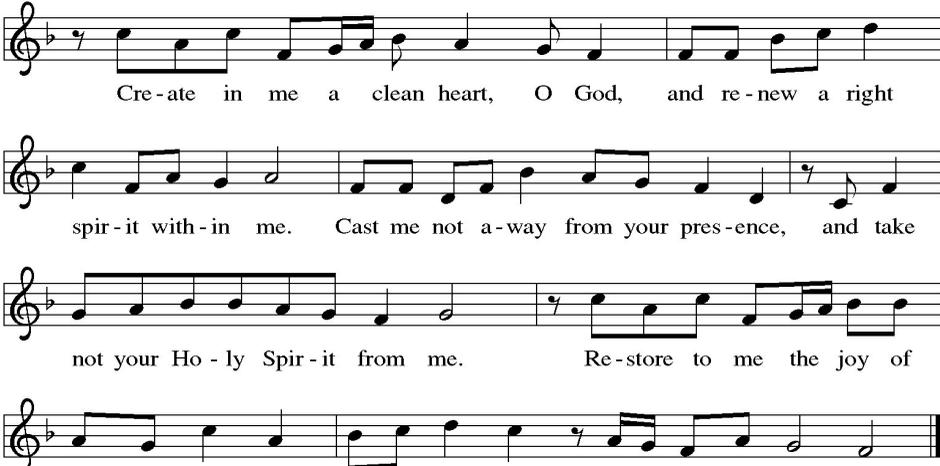
PRAYERS *(Response after each petition)*

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer . . .**

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

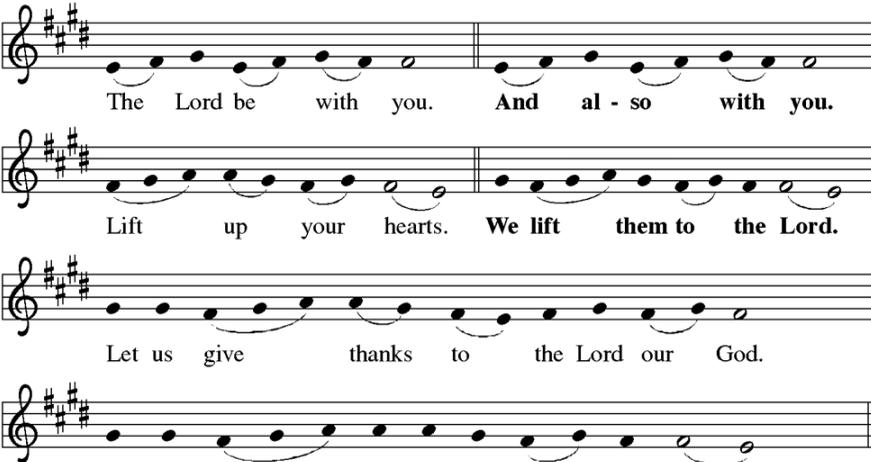
OFFERTORY SONG Red hymnal #186 - from Psalm 51:10-12



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 to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

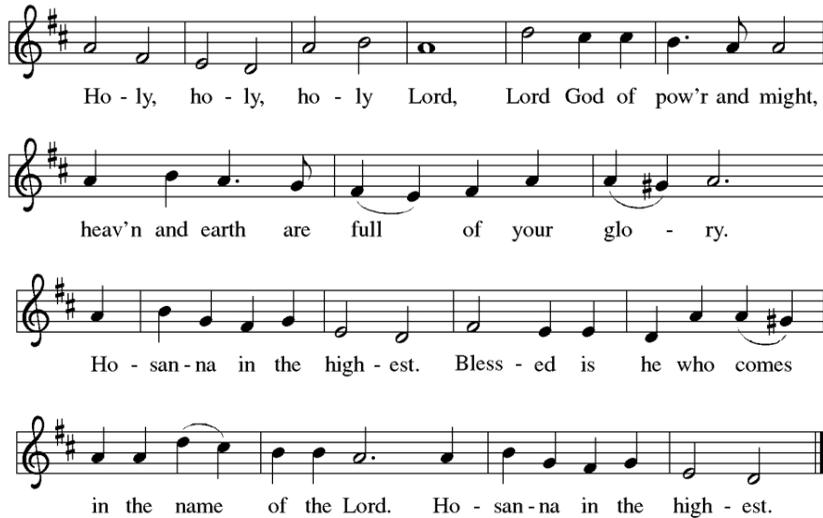
CHILDREN'S SERMON

COMMUNION PREFACE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: 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...(The pastor continues with the proper preface for the day)...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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P: Blessed are you...
 ...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P: O God of resurrection and new life:
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
- C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.
 Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P: With your holy ones...now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

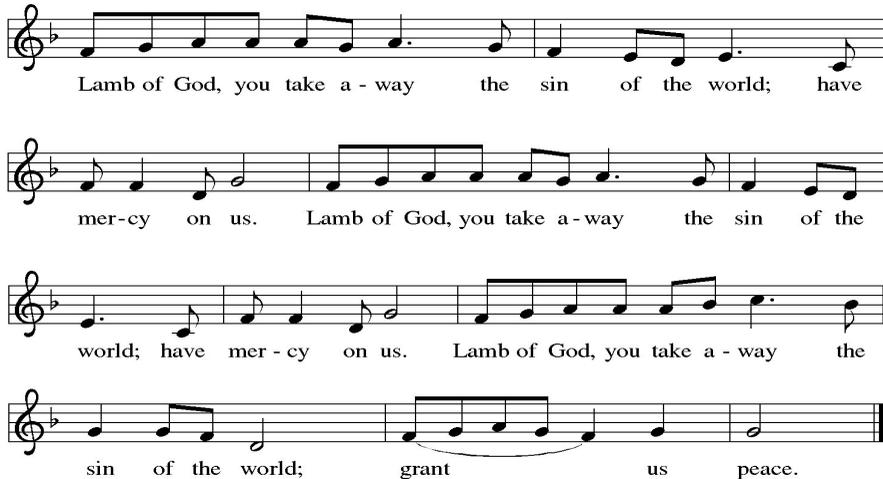
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)

LAMB OF GOD Red Hymnal page 146 - from John 1:29



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.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #339

Christ, the Life of All the Living

DISMISSAL Luke 7:50

P: Who are we at Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **We are disciples Rooted in Christ and Growing in Faith**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Arr: Hobby

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Jack & Sharon Byrd in memory of family and friends.*

*Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted
using a 'Prayer Request' card from the pew rack.*

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Jaren Summers
Reader	Chuck Drake
Communion Assist	Doug Jacobs
Ushers	Matt & Pam Sauls
Greeter	Beth Ferryman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT—TODAY after Service

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH: *Seeds of Hope*

On any given day in Ohio there are over 16,000 children in foster care and over 124,000 children in kinship care. Seeds of Hope was born out of the need to support and encourage the families that care for these children. Over the past 4 years, Seeds of Hope in Troy has filled over 1,000 need requests from foster, kinship and adoptive families in Troy, Miami County and the surrounding counties.

Zion is collecting the following items. They will be taken to Seeds of Hope in Troy. Please drop off your donations in the narthex by **Sunday April 26th**.

***All sizes of diapers *Girls and boys training pants *Baby wipes *New or lightly used baby/toddler clothes *Walmart gift cards**

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday, March 29	After Service Storypoint Outreach	Pancake Breakfast/Egg Hunt
Monday, March 30	10:30 am 3:30 pm	Mission Quilts TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Tuesday, March 31	10:00 am 8:00 pm	Mission Quilts AA
Wednesday, April 1	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 2	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 3	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 4	5:00 pm	Easter Service
Sunday, April 5	7:00 am 10:00 am	Sunrise Service - Methodist Lot Easter Service

Staff

Jaren Summers, *Pastor*; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn, *Christian Education Director*;
Annette Calicoat, *Office Admin*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*;
Tina Putnam, *Custodian*