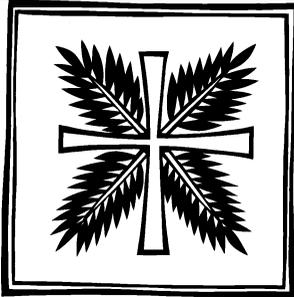


St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

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



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.

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania
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WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

GREETING

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.**

HYMN

Hosanna, Praise is Rising

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You, we turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You, we long for You
'Cause when we see You we find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You, we turn to You
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new
'Cause when we see You we find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Please be seated

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

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

C: Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna, Praise is Rising

Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna, Hosanna

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will. By your Spirit, 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.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Psalm 31 9-16

A: A reading from Psalm 31.

A: 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.

C: 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.**

A: 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.

C: ¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

A: 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.

C: ¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
I have said, “You are my God.**

A: ¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

C: ¹⁶ **Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”**

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

A: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, the second chapter.

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.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

INTRODUCTION TO PASSION NARRATIVE

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed ELW 337



- 1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
- 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
- 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
- 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
- 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

THE PRAYERS

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.
A brief silence.

P: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

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 and send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

C: 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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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,

C: Amen.

TRANSITION INTO HOLY WEEK

Please stand

BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand ELW 773

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.

Take My Hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone, hear my cry,
hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.

Take My Hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take My Hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!



*Maundy Thursday & Stripping of Altar
April 2, 7:00pm*

*Good Friday
April 3, 7:00pm*

*Holy Saturday, Children's Easter Egg Hunt
April 4, 10:00am*

*Easter Sunday Worship
April 5, 7:30am & 9:30am*

*Easter Congregational Breakfast
April 5, 8:30am*

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