



# Welcome to Worship

*Palm Sunday ~ March 29, 2026*

## **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

## **PROCESSIONAL START IN BACK OF CHURCH WITH PALMS:**

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

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup> “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.” <sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!” <sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” – ELW 344 (Vs 1,3,4)*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Glory to you, O God:  
you speak a word of power,  
and Creation springs forth!  
**We praise you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
your Spirit hovers over the earth,  
and order is birthed from chaos!  
**We bless you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
The sun rules our days,  
The moon and stars brighten our nights,  
Bringing your light to our darkness!  
**We exalt you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
May blessing, glory, and praise be yours!  
**Now and forever, Amen!**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *ELW Setting 10, page 205***

 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

**GREETING:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY: 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.**

**Amen.**

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**

*Church School Kids sing*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup>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 awakens, awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup> 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;  
<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9a</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 31:9-16**

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I <sup>1</sup> am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat <sup>1</sup> and my belly.  
<sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my <sup>1</sup> years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones <sup>1</sup> are  
consumed.**  
<sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a  
dismay to <sup>1</sup> my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street <sup>1</sup> they avoid me.  
<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, <sup>1</sup> out of mind;  
I am as useless as a <sup>1</sup> broken pot.**  
<sup>13</sup> For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is <sup>1</sup> all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to <sup>1</sup> take my life.  
<sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in <sup>1</sup> you, O Lord.  
I have said, “You <sup>1</sup> are my God.**  
<sup>15</sup> My times are <sup>1</sup> in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those  
who <sup>1</sup> persecute me.  
<sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine up- <sup>1</sup> on your servant;  
save me in your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.”**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW Setting 10, page 205*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL: **Matthew 27:11-54**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 27<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after

flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. <sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON SONG:**     *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – ELW 803*

## **SERMON**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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.**

### **OFFERING:**

*Our Lord Jesus offered himself for us in love on the cross.  
We bring our offering in response, giving thanks for such an amazing gift!*

### **OFFERTORY:**

*We give thee but thine own, Whatev’r that gift may be.  
All that we have is thine alone, A trust O Lord from thee.*

**PRAYERS:** Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally (*here local bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers may be named*). Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

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. Your mercy is great.**

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. Your mercy is great.**

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 (*especially*). **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

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. Your mercy is great.**  
***Here other intercessions may be offered.***

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for (*Hans Nielsen Hauge and*) all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

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

#### **BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look upon you with favor and give you his peace.

**SENDING SONG: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" – ELW 338 (Vs 1,2)**

**DISMISSAL: Go in peace, Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God**



# PALM Sunday

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