

PALM SUNDAY

PASTOR ED PEASE

MARCH 29, 2026



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.

(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold print**)

Welcome & Announcements

Acclamation

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

Hosanna in the highest.

*Processional Gospel: Matthew 1:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #344

***Prayer of the Day**

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Silence is kept. Then the presiding minister prays the 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.

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.**

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: Phillipians 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.**

***Gospel Acclamation -- p. 142**

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 26th and 27th Chapters. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

¹⁴ One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

...

⁶⁶ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Message

Hymn “There in God’s Garden” #342

***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.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

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 we pray for Barb, Carla, Barb, Diane, Bill, Ed, Pat, Jeni, Kenny, and Jayme). 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.

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

***Offering Prayer**

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Thanksgiving at the Table** p.144

***Lord's Prayer**

***Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Communion (continuous)

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats may remain seated.

Distribution Hymns: #353- Were You There; #338 - Beneath the Cross of Jesus

***Prayer after Communion**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***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** "Christ, The Life of All The Living" #339

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God’s world to share God’s love and grace.

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Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pastor Ed Pease:

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Email – edward.pease@gmail.com

- A special welcome to any visitors! Please take the time this morning to fill out the visitor card located with the hymnals and either place it on the offering plate or give it to an usher.
- There is a confirmation sign-up sheet for adult volunteers on the usher’s table.

This Week’s Events: March 29-April 5

Today	9:00am	Palm Sunday
Tues.	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Thur.	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday
Fri.	7:00pm	Good Friday
Sun.	7:00am	Sunrise Easter Service
	8:00-9:30	Breakfast and Crafts
	8:45	Easter Egg Hunt
	9:30	Easter Service

Worship Assistants for March:

Organist: Ruth Chartier

Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp

Tech Assistant: Kari Collins

Greeters: Blake & Sadie Stratton

Greeters Next Week: Jill & Casey Stratton

Altar Guild: Gail & Cindy Ploen

Offertory Accountants: Denny Bain & Irv Martin

Worship Assistants for April:

Organist: Ruth Chartier

Scripture Reader: Denny Bain

Tech Assistant: Rebecca Brockhaus

Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen

Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke

Birthdays: 29 – Ellie Gilles; 30 – Rayne Sanchez; 31 – Parker Collins; April 4 – Livvy Brosamle, Jessica Cross, Faith Stamm

Anniversaries: 30 – Dave & Staci Schweder

Prayers

We pray for Kenny Stroman; Barb Kunkel; Carla Boggs; Barb Allner; Diane Riediger; Bill Nagel; Ed Kunkel; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

For those battling cancer: Jayme Webb –breast cancer; Jeni Aman.

God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!

Our budget needs each week: \$3,175

Electronic Giving	\$	690.00
Lent	\$	320.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,989.00</u>
Total	\$	2,999.00

