

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

A Community of Faith: *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



Order of Worship

March 29, 2026 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org 781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Rev. Nils Niemeier, Pastor

email: pastor@lcsavior.org

Introit

Psalm 24:7–10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.



Communion Theology and Practice

Please see our statement of Communion Theology and Practice
on the back page of the worship bulletin.

*If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the
Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.*

Thank you.

Palm Sunday

Divine Service, Setting Four

Welcome

Procession of Palms

If the congregation is already seated in the nave, it now stands and faces the processional cross at the entrance to the nave.

P The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

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

C Hosanna to the Son of David.

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12–19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

P Let us go forth in peace,

C **in the name of the Lord.**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

LSB 442

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,
 To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
 And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
 Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
 To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Palm branches may be waved as the refrain is sung. After the last stanza of the hymn, the pastor speaks:

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

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

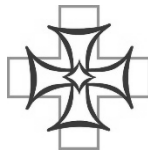
Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**



Stand

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 118:19–29; antiphon: v. 26



A Together, we sing Psalm 118 responsively:

²⁶*Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!**

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of | righteousness,*

that I may enter through them

and give thanks | to the LORD.

²⁰**This is the gate | of the LORD;***

the righteous shall enter | through it.

²¹I thank you that you have | answered me*

and have become my sal- | vation.

²²**The stone that the builders re- | jected***

has become the | cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's | doing;*

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴**This is the day that the | LORD has made;***

let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*

O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

²⁶**Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!***

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God,

and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,

up to the horns of the | altar!

²⁸**You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you;***

you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

²⁹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*

for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

C **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son***

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

²⁶*Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!**

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

“Comes the King”

*Carlson, Stone
arr. Williamson*

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

C **He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Philippians 2:8b

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

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

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰"He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,

lest they see with their eyes,
and understand with their heart, and turn,
and I would heal them.”

⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

⁴²Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

LSB 443



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav' n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821–80, alt.

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- L** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

The response after each petition is as follows:

- L** Lord, in your mercy:
C Hear our prayer.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

Sit

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

LSB 967



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and
5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



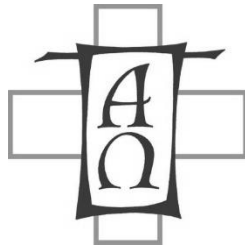
tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur - sue Thy
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs now be -
ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and won - d'ring
fierc - est strife is night. The Fa - ther on His sap - phire
pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to mor - tal



road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.
pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt. Tune: Graham E. George, 1912–93

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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“Comes the King” Words and Music by Pete Carlson and Regi Stone,

Arranged by Dave Williamson

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Resources for Meditation this Week

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

29 March 2026

Readings

Isaiah 50:4–9a

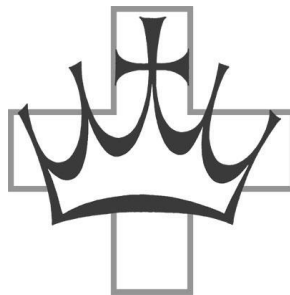
Philippians 2:5–11

John 12:12–19 (Procession)

Matthew 26:1—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–66 or John 12:20–43

Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming." He comes in gentle humility, *"sitting on a donkey's colt,"* yet also as the King of Israel *"in the name of the Lord"* (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service *"to the point of death, even death on a cross"* (Phil. 2:8). The love of God is manifested in the cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, *"God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face *"from disgrace and spitting"* (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, where He feeds us with His body and cleanses and covers us with His blood, so that *"after his resurrection"* we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52–53).



Readings

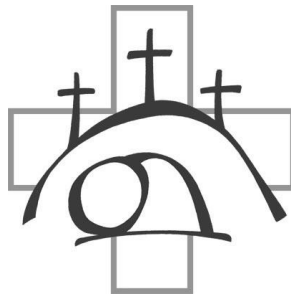
Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6

Colossians 3:1–4

Matthew 28:1–10

The Victory of Christ Crucified Is Given to You in the Preaching of His Resurrection

Every Sunday is the Lord's day, the day of His resurrection, *"after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week"* (Matt. 28:1). In the Divine Service, the Church enters upon the eternal "eighth day." The Lord Jesus, *"who was crucified,"* who *"has risen, as he said"* (Matt. 28:5–6), is the firstborn from the dead and the firstfruits of the new creation. Because *"you have died"* with Him in Holy Baptism, *"you have been raised with Christ"* and *"your life is hidden with Christ in God"* (Col. 3:1, 3). The Lord Jesus has become our God, as surely as He is *"the God of all the clans of Israel,"* and we now belong to His people (Jer. 31:1). In this, He *"shows no partiality"* (Acts 10:34), but *"everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name"* (Acts 10:43). As *"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power"* and *"raised him on the third day,"* He also raises us up and pours out His Spirit upon us through the Gospel (Acts 10:38, 40).



Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized, or have not received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!