



Palm Sunday

Eucharist

Sunday, March 29, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Exploring the promise of God for all

You are welcome. No exceptions.

Central Lutheran Church experiences God's expansive love and strives to share it abundantly. We affirm all people without regard to age, race, biological sex, housing status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration, refugee or migration status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health or ability. All are a part of God's family, created in God's image.

We strive to practice radical hospitality with all people and work toward racial equity. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.

Worship



Bold print indicates responses spoken by all.



Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).



You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand or remain seated at any point in the service.



Masks are welcome, but not required.



Children are welcome and celebrated in worship. Each Sunday there are Children's Bags at each of the ushers' tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. Inside each bag is a worship activity and snack. Many families sit near the children's tables next to the baptismal font, but you are welcome to sit anywhere in the sanctuary that is comfortable to you.



All are welcome to receive communion at Central. At the ushers' invitation, you will proceed toward the altar where there are regular and gluten-free wafers served with wine or grape juice. Your server will offer bread and wine for all, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please let your server know.



Offering can be made online using the QR code in the bulletin or left in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors.

MEMBERS OF:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org

Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org

ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.org

MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation | www.mnipl.org



Welcome to worship at Central Lutheran Church. As you arrive for worship, you are invited to prepare your hearts and minds while listening to the prelude before the service begins today.



The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on this first day of the week.

**Many African American spirituals and hymns were never credited to their creators or were claimed by other individuals. On weekends when Central uses music or music texts created by people who were kept in chattel slavery, a donation will be made to a Historical Black College and University (HBCU) as a reparation to their descendants. For 2026, Central will be sending donations to Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.*

(You are invited to gather in the Great Room as we begin worship)

Gathering

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Ride On King Jesus”

*African American Spiritual,
arr. Larry Fleming

*Ride on, King Jesus.
No one can hinder you.
Ride on King Jesus ride,
King Jesus, Ride to me.
When I look around me to find
someone who is gentle and kind,
someone who'll show me the way,
I look to Jesus, and I pray.
When I need someone to hear,
to help me conquer my fear,
When I can't find the way,
I look to Jesus, and I pray.*

OPENING DIALOGUE

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

Hosanna in the highest! *(Raise palm branches)*

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

Hosanna in the highest! *(Raise palm branches)*

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

Hosanna in the highest! *(Raise palm branches)*

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

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 are 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 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals 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.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

The Palm Sunday 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.”

⁶The 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.

PALM SUNDAY RESPONSE

“Blessed Is the One”

Sing twice

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Psalm 118:26
Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977
Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite love and abundant life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and center us in our home in you, 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)



*God speaks to us in
scripture reading,
preaching, and song.*

Word

FIRST READING

Philippians 2:5-11

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.

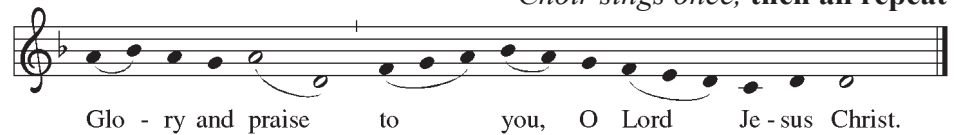
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choir sings once, then all repeat



Choir: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

All: Repeat acclamation

(Please be seated)

GOSPEL

Matthew 27:11-54

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

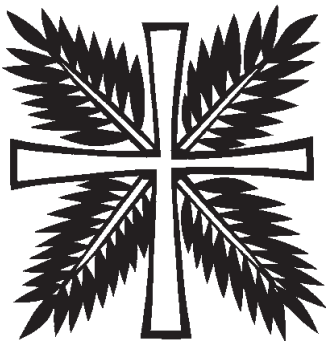
Glory to you, O Lord.

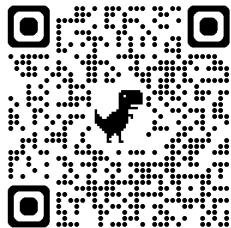
¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ 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?” ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ 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





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God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Jews!”³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him.³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ 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.”⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,⁴² “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.⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”⁴⁴ The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.⁴⁶ 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?”⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.”⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ 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

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

Hymn 343

*Stanza 1: all | Stanza 2: high voices
Stanza 3: all | Stanza 4: low voices
Stanza 5: choir | Stanza 6: all*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Merciful God, hear us as we seek your healing love for our lives, community and the world.

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, who gives all the sustaining common elements of home. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“He Was Despised,” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

“Lamb of God”

Hymn 336

Stanzas 1 and 2

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...and join in their unending hymn...

SANCTUS

Gregorian Mass 18

Sung in Latin:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine

Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Translation:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Creating, Healing and Sustaining God, you provide a home for all, built around common elements...All glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
 your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
 Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
 for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al
 and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

(Please be seated)

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

"Hololo" represents crying and has no translation.

"Zjem zja" is expressive with no meaning.

COMMUNION

"Agnus Dei"

Gregorian Mass 18

Sung in Latin:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Translation:

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

"Indodana"

Traditional South African,
 arr. Michael Marrett and Ralf Schmitt

Sung in Xhosa:

*Ngob'umthathile, umntwana wakho,
 hhlale nathi, hololo, helele*

Indodana, ka nkulunkulu

Bayi'bethela hololo helele.

Hololo Baba Jehovah

Zjem zja baba

Translation:

The Lord has taken his son who lived amongst us

The son of the Lord God was crucified.

Hololo Father Jehovah

Zjem zja father

*"Were You There"

Hymn 353



*God blesses us and sends
us for shared mission in
our shared world.*

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

Sending

BENEDICTION

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.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, \dagger and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Hymn 345

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Chorale Improvisation on
"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Setting, Paul Manz

Join Central for Worship in Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 2, noon and 7 p.m.: Noon service of Holy Communion; 7 p.m. service with hand/foot washing, Holy Communion, and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 3, noon and 7 p.m.: Meditating on the death of Jesus, with candles at the cross, the same service is offered at noon or 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4, 5 p.m.: The service of light, readings, baptism, and Holy Communion with dessert following.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.: Festival worship with donut holes and coffee between services.

Serving Today

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>presider</i>
Allison Eger	<i>assisting</i>
Sara Gunsch	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Henry Rye	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Abigail Pribbenow	<i>host</i>

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry Teams.

Chancel flowers today are given by Nancy Gruber in loving memory of her husband Laurence Lunden, Jr., his parents Laurence and Anne Stub Lunden, his brother John Lunden, aunts Didrikke Stub Hubbard and Bertha Stub Lysen, uncle J.A.O. Stub, Jr., and as a tribute to his grandparents the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. J.A.O. Stub.

Portions of the liturgy are from SundaysandSeasons.com

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Processional Hymn: Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John Mason neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Music: Valet Will Ich Dir Geben, Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

Central Lutheran
333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

(612) 870-4416 | info@centralmpls.org