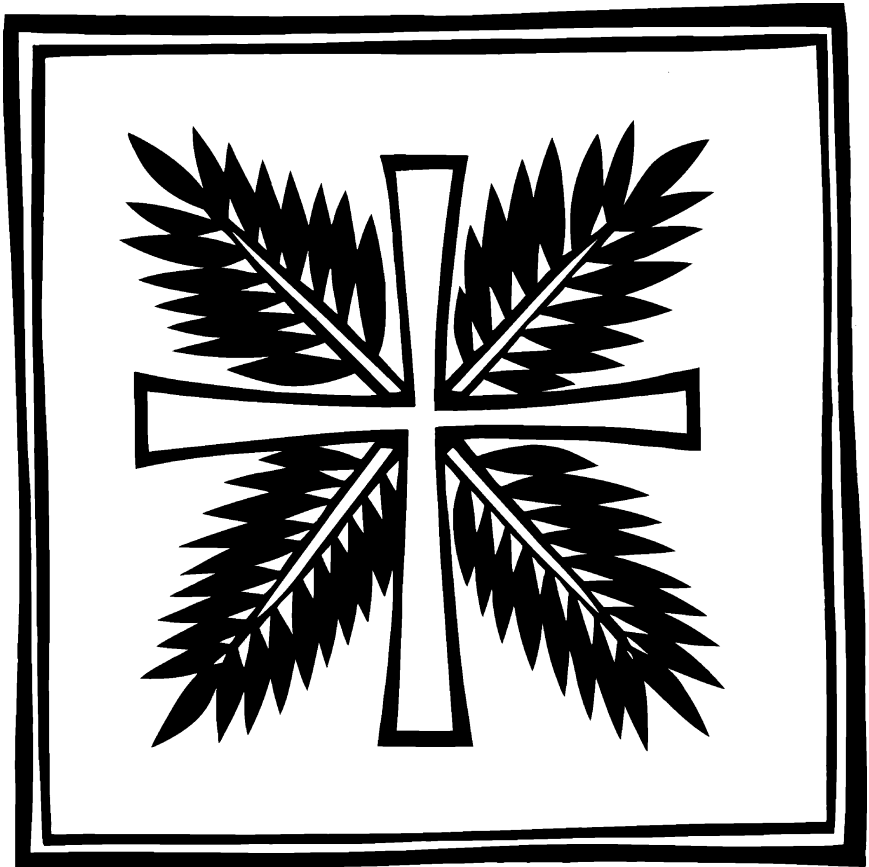


St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

March 29th, 2026

Palm and Passion Sunday



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

March 29th, 2026

Palm and Passion Sunday

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WE GATHER IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

(Repeat 3x) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

THE PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11 (CEB)

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹ When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. ² He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away. ⁴ Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, ⁵ *Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.”* ⁶ The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

⁸ Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*” ¹⁰ And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked. ¹¹ The crowds answered, “It’s 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,


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.**

Let us go forth in peace. **In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW #344 All Glory Laud and Honor

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,



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.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people and the ways of our world in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love. Show us again the image of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience, so that self-emptying may be our pathway, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
SPECIAL MUSIC St. Paul's Choir and Sunday School

Antiphonal Hosanna

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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 gave me an educated tongue
to know how to respond to the weary
with a word that will awaken them in the morning.
God awakens my ear in the morning to listen,
as educated people do.

⁵ The Lord God opened my ear;
I didn't rebel; I didn't turn my back.

⁶ Instead, I gave my body to attackers,
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.

I didn't hide my face
from insults and spitting.

⁷ The Lord God will help me;
therefore, I haven't been insulted.

Therefore, I set my face like flint,
and knew I wouldn't be ashamed.

⁸ The one who will declare me innocent is near.
Who will argue with me?

Let's stand up together.

Who will bring judgment against me?
Let him approach me.

⁹ Look! The Lord God will help me.

Who will condemn me?
Look, they will wear out like clothing;
the moth will eat them.

Psalm: 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: Philippians 2:5-11 (CEB)

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 Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Though he was in the form of God,
he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.

⁷ But he emptied himself
by taking the form of a slave
and by becoming like human beings.

When he found himself in the form of a human,

⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God highly honored him
and gave him a name above all names,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus everyone
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow

¹¹ and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Before: The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66 (CEB)

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

Judas betrays Jesus

¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From that time on he was looking for an opportunity to turn him in.

Passover with the disciples

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?”

¹⁸ He replied, “Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, ‘The teacher says, “My time is near. I’m going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.”’” ¹⁹ The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.

²⁰ That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. ²¹ As they were eating he said, “I assure you that one of you will betray me.”

²² Deeply saddened, each one said to him, “I’m not the one, am I, Lord?”

²³ He replied, “The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. ²⁴ The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born.”

²⁵ Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, “It’s not me, is it, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You said it.”

Last supper

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take and eat. This is my body.” ²⁷ He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from this, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. ²⁹ I tell you, I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰ Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Predictions about disciples leaving Jesus

³¹ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, *I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions.* ³² But after I’m raised up, I’ll go before you to Galilee.”

³³ Peter replied, “If everyone else stumbles because of you, I’ll never stumble.”

³⁴ Jesus said to him, “I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times.”

³⁵ Peter said, “Even if I must die alongside you, I won’t deny you.” All the disciples said the same thing.

Jesus in prayer

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, “Stay here while I go and pray over there.” ³⁷ When he took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “I’m very sad. It’s as if I’m dying. Stay here and keep alert with me.” ³⁹ Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it’s possible, take this cup of suffering away from me.

However—not what I want but what you want.”

⁴⁰ He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you stay alert one hour with me? ⁴¹ Stay alert and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² A second time he went away and prayed, “My Father, if it’s not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.”

⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were heavy with sleep. ⁴⁴ But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time. ⁴⁵ Then he came to his disciples and said to them, “Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up. Let’s go. Look, here comes my betrayer.”

Arrest

⁴⁷ While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ His

betrayer had given them a sign: “Arrest the man I kiss.”⁴⁹ Just then he came to Jesus and said, “Hello, Rabbi.” Then he kissed him.

⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

⁵¹ One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest’s slave, he cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I’m not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? ⁵⁴ But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?” ⁵⁵ Then Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn’t arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

Jesus before the council

⁵⁷ Those who arrested Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest. The legal experts and the elders had gathered there. ⁵⁸ Peter followed him from a distance until he came to the high priest’s courtyard. He entered that area and sat outside with the officers to see how it would turn out.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ They didn’t find anything they could use from the many false witnesses who were willing to come forward. But finally they found two ⁶¹ who said, “This man said, ‘I can destroy God’s temple and rebuild it in three days.’”

⁶² Then the high priest stood and said to Jesus, “Aren’t you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?”

⁶³ But Jesus was silent.

The high priest said, “By the living God, I demand that you tell us whether you are the Christ, God’s Son.”

⁶⁴ “You said it,” Jesus replied. “But I say to you that from now on you’ll see *the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds.*”

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He’s insulting God! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, you’ve heard his insult against God. ⁶⁶ What do you think?”

And they answered, “He deserves to die!” ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and beat him. They hit him ⁶⁸ and said, “Prophecy for us, Christ! Who hit you?”

Peter’s denial

⁶⁹ Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant woman came and said to him, “You were also with Jesus the Galilean.”

⁷⁰ But he denied it in front of all of them, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.”

⁷¹ When he went over to the gate, another woman saw him and said to those who were there, “This man was with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

⁷² With a solemn pledge, he denied it again, saying, “I don’t know the man.”

⁷³ A short time later those standing there came and said to Peter, “You must be one of them. The way you talk gives you away.”

⁷⁴ Then he cursed and swore, “I don’t know the man!” At that very moment the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Peter remembered Jesus’ words, “Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.” And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

Jesus before Pilate

27 Early in the morning all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to have Jesus put to death. ² They bound him, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate the governor.

Judas’ death

³ When Judas, who betrayed Jesus, saw that Jesus was condemned to die, he felt deep regret. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to

the chief priests and elders, and ⁴ said, “I did wrong because I betrayed an innocent man.”

But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.” ⁵ Judas threw the silver pieces into the temple and left. Then he went and hanged himself.

⁶ The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said, “According to the Law it’s not right to put this money in the treasury. Since it was used to pay for someone’s life, it’s unclean.” ⁷ So they decided to use it to buy the potter’s field where strangers could be buried. ⁸ That’s why that field is called “Field of Blood” to this very day. ⁹ This fulfilled the words of Jeremiah the prophet: *And I took the thirty pieces of silver, the price for the one whose price had been set by some of the Israelites,* ¹⁰ *and I gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.*

Questioned by Pilate

¹¹ Jesus was brought before the governor. The governor said, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” ¹² But he didn’t answer when the chief priests and elders accused him.

¹³ Then Pilate said, “Don’t you hear the testimony they bring against you?” ¹⁴ But he didn’t answer, not even a single word. So the governor was greatly amazed.

Death sentence

¹⁵ It was customary during the festival for the governor to release to the crowd one prisoner, whomever they might choose. ¹⁶ At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ When the crowd had come together, Pilate asked them, “Whom would you like me to release to you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸ He knew that the leaders of the people had handed him over because of jealousy.

¹⁹ While he was serving as judge, his wife sent this message to him, “Leave that righteous man alone. I’ve suffered much today in a dream because of him.”

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and kill Jesus. ²¹ The governor said, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

“Barabbas,” they replied.

²² Pilate said, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all said, “Crucify him!”

²³ But he said, “Why? What wrong has he done?”

They shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

²⁴ Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was starting. So he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I’m innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It’s your problem.”

²⁵ All the people replied, “Let his blood be on us and on our children.” ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

Soldiers mocking Jesus

²⁷ The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the governor’s house, and they gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a red military coat on him. ²⁹ They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they bowed down in front of him and mocked him, saying, “Hey! King of the Jews!” ³⁰ After they spit on him, they took the stick and struck his head again and again. ³¹ When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the military coat and put his own clothes back on him. They led him away to crucify him.

Crucifixion

³² As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They forced him to carry his cross. ³³ When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place, ³⁴ they gave Jesus wine mixed with vinegar to drink. But after tasting it, he didn’t want to drink it. ³⁵ After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots. ³⁶ They sat there, guarding him. ³⁷ They placed above his head the charge against him. It read,

“This is Jesus, the king of the Jews.”³⁸ They crucified with him two outlaws, one on his right side and one on his left.

³⁹ Those who were walking by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads⁴⁰ and saying, “So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? Save yourself! If you are God’s Son, come down from the cross.”

⁴¹ In the same way, the chief priests, along with the legal experts and the elders, were making fun of him, saying,⁴² “He saved others, but he can’t save himself. He’s the king of Israel, so let him come down from the cross now. Then we’ll believe in him.”⁴³ He trusts in God, so let God deliver him now if he wants to. He said, ‘I’m God’s Son.’”⁴⁴ The outlaws who were crucified with him insulted him in the same way.

Death

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark.⁴⁶ At about three Jesus cried out with a loud shout, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani,*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you left me?”

⁴⁷ After hearing him, some standing there said, “He’s calling Elijah.”⁴⁸ One of them ran over, took a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink.

⁴⁹ But the rest of them said, “Let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.”

⁵⁰ Again Jesus cried out with a loud shout. Then he died.

⁵¹ Look, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split,⁵² and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised.⁵³ After Jesus’ resurrection they came out of their graves and went into the holy city where they appeared to many people.⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and what had just happened, they were filled with awe and said, “This was certainly God’s Son.”

⁵⁵ Many women were watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to serve him.⁵⁶ Among them were Mary

Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Burial

⁵⁷ That evening a man named Joseph came. He was a rich man from Arimathea who had become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He came to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate gave him permission to take it. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had carved out of the rock. After he rolled a large stone at the door of the tomb, he went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting in front of the tomb.

Guard at the tomb

⁶² The next day, which was the day after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate. ⁶³ They said, "Sir, we remember that while that deceiver was still alive he said, 'After three days I will arise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore, order the grave to be sealed until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people, 'He's been raised from the dead.' This last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ Pilate replied, "You have soldiers for guard duty. Go and make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ Then they went and secured the tomb by sealing the stone and posting the guard.

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

SERMON: "Frozen By The Fire"

HYMN: #349 Ah, Holy Jesus

APOSTLES' CREED (p. 105)

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

Each petition concludes: God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

Let our hosannas to the one who brings liberation take form in our tithes and offering.

SPECIAL MUSIC St. Paul's Choir "Lift the Palms"

Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer: God of all good gifts, we thank you for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are homeless. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)

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.

BLESSING

Go in peace, assured of God's presence with you, with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide, and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN: #346 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty! (alt tune)

CHARGE

Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Look not to rewards and celebrity for your good deeds. Do unto others what will nurture God's will for them. Listen to the word of the Lord, and believe. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

March 29th, 2026

Palm and Passion Sunday

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

PRAYER LIST

For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Judy Luettjohann
Darleen Jackson	Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils
Marlo Moren	Evie Gunderson	Nancy Eia
Mike Ophus	Loiland family	Trevin Monahan
Nash Erdman	Stuart Hanson	Mark Peterson
Lenny Devos	Glorryne Casmeay	Lucile Torkelson
Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee	Kari L Trudeau
Leah Knotek Ellesson	Family of Dale Knotek	

For our missionaries:

Steve & Kelly Solheim
City of Joy Rwanda

For our servicemen:

Brandon Johnson D.J. Brace

Please keep them in your prayers this week.

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, marianbakken@gmail.com.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Col. 3:1-4

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Matt. 28:1-10

Readings for April 5th, 2026

Easter Sunday

MISSION

To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

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Ministers

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Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers

Richard and Denise Niemela

Scripture Reader

Kathy Normandin

Acolyte

Vincent Peterson

Altar Guild

Kari Moe

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and Becky Nelson

Livestream

Anna Peterson

Fellowship Carol Solheim, Kathy Normandin and Pearl Johnson

A big THANK YOU to everyone who signed up as worship servers during this coming week! You are a blessing!

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM

Thank you, April's Marvelous Worship Service Team, for being part of worship; your roles are needed and appreciated.

Please check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you so much! ☺

Bruce and Betty Arvidson

Marilyn Flateland

Gina Gunderson

Ronald and Connie Haller

Pearl Johnson

Carol Solheim

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am- 2pm

Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business. Worship via Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Sunday, March 29

**8:45 am
10:00 am
11:00 am**

Palm and Passion Sunday

**SS/Adult Bible Study
Worship
Easter Egg Hunt**

*This is our week to do Home Delivered Meals.
Thank you to all who are participating!*

Monday, March 30

8:30 am

LWR Quilting

Tuesday, March 31

**7:00 am
7:00 pm**

**Men's Coffee Fellowship
AA**

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 pm

Choir Practice

Thursday, April 2

6:30 pm

Maundy Thursday

**Worship
Celebration of First Communion**

Friday, April 3

6:30 pm

Good Friday

Saturday April 4

Sunday, April 5

NO SS OR ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**10:00 am
11:00 am**

Easter Sunday

**Worship
Easter Egg Hunt**



OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

March 22nd, 2026

Attendance: 77

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$4,121.02
Loose Offering	\$ 30.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 30.00
Lent	\$ 335.00

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Improvement Fund	\$ 20.00
Parsonage Siding Fund	\$ 600.00
Memorials	\$ 100.00

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:

	\$4,675.42
Total received towards Budget	\$4,526.02
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$ 720.00
Total Received	\$5,246.02

Lent: March 18th, 2026

Attendance: 40

Total Offering	\$ 435.60
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The updated Parsonage Siding Fund: **\$26,762.23!**

We only have **\$2,623.72** to go to reach the goal of **\$29,385.96**.

WOW! Thank you so much!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church		
MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT: February 2026		
	Month	Y-T-D
Amount needed to meet budgeted items	\$ 20,260.17	\$ 40,520.34
Receipts toward budget	\$ 21,901.26	\$ 37,068.35
Other receipts	\$ 1,648.73	\$ 3,527.61
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 23,549.99	\$ 40,595.96
Budgeted Disbursements	\$ 17,777.75	\$ 34,788.64
Other Disbursements	\$ 159.98	\$ 7,072.66
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 17,937.73	\$ 41,861.30
	Income/Loss YTD	\$ 2,279.71
	Due to Benevolence	\$ (3,405.50)
		\$ (1,125.79)

MEN'S TUESDAY MORNING CUP OF FELLOWSHIP



Join us every **Tuesday at 7:00 am** for a fresh pot of coffee and even better conversation. We gather to share the stories of our lives—the highs, the lows, and everything in between—while trusting the Holy Spirit to stir some faith into the mix.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Items for the WELCA Care Kits can still be donated! Please consider giving **new or gently used lightweight bath towels**. (Sizes 20" x 40" to 52" x 27,") and **bars of soap**, (3-4 ounces.) Donation collection is in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!!

HOME DELIVERED MEALS

St. Paul's will be doing Home Delivered Meals, March 30 - April 3, Holy Week, and April 6 - 10. What a privilege for us to bless the homebound with a bit of holiness during this important week! Thank you to all who will be giving of their time to serve!

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Find Your Place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

We invite all those who are interested in joining our congregation to a two-part New Member series this April. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to share your story, meet church leadership, and explore our shared faith through the lens of our baptismal promises.

- **When:** April 12 & April 19 (after morning worship)
- **Where:** The Family Room (the room with a table, couches, and bookshelves by the East entrance).
- **New Member Welcome:** Sunday, **April 26**, during worship. To RSVP or ask questions, contact Pastor Curt or the office.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA... SAVE THE DATE

The **SWO... Synod Women's Organization** Convention is excited to announce the 2026 convention event, which will be hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston, on **September 18th & 19th**. Save the date!

CONFIRMATION

Four young people from our church family will be making their public declaration of faith and ongoing commitment to growing in the Lord and serving Him and our neighbors.

- **April 29th, at 8:00 pm:** Confirmation Rehearsal
- **Sunday, May 3rd:** Confirmation—celebrating Our 9th grade Confirmands

HEARTS IN ACTION HOSPICE

Volunteer with **HIA Hospice**, formerly Hospice of the Red River Valley, and literally make a life changing difference. We have roles to fit everyone's talents and schedules. See the kiosk poster for more information or use the link below.



<https://www.hiahealth.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

SPRING THING FOR 6-12TH GRADERS

All 6th-12th graders are invited to the 5th annual Spring Thing, hosted by **Common Grounds!** Common Grounds is a partnership of Crookston area churches dedicated to giving our youth a chance to experience fun and fellowship together, no matter what church they call home.

Here are the details of this year's event:

- **Who:** All 6th–12th graders
- **When:** Wednesday, April 22nd | 6:30 PM – 8:45 PM
- **Where:** Crookston High School
- **What to Expect:** Fun games, worship time together, inspiring faith journeys shared by older youth, and tasty desserts!

Come hang out, meet new friends, and enjoy a great evening of community. Feel free to bring a friend!

FAITH FORMATION

This week, our students explored the powerful story of Jesus' sacrifice and his glorious resurrection. We followed the journey from the sadness of the cross to the overwhelming joy at the empty tomb.

What We Learned

- **The Sacrifice:** We talked about the "very sad day" when Jesus died. Even when things felt dark and Jesus felt alone, God was with him the whole time.
- **The Surprise:** Three days later, Mary Magdalene, Mary, Salome, and Joanna went to the tomb with heavy hearts, only to find the stone rolled away and an angel waiting with a message: "**Jesus is alive!**"
- **The Joy:** The sadness turned to shouting with joy when the women finally saw Jesus again and ran to tell his friends the good news.

Talk About It at Home

1. **Color of Sadness:** In the lesson, we asked, "What color would you use to show sadness?" Ask your child what color they chose and why. Then, ask what color they would use to show the **joy** of Jesus being alive!
2. **The Good News:** Jesus told the women to go tell others that he is alive. Who is someone we can share "good news" with this week?
3. **The Angel's Message:** If you were one of the women at the cave and saw a glowing angel, how do you think you would have reacted?

A Simple Prayer

"Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus. Thank you that even when things feel sad or dark, you are always with us. Help us to share the joy of Jesus being alive with everyone we meet! Amen."

SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (SWO) HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

High school seniors graduating this spring, and planning to attend an ELCA College, may be eligible for a scholarship through the SWO W/ELCA. A letter detailing the qualifications, plus a form to fill out, are available from the church office. **The properly completed and signed application form must be postmarked no later than April 30.**

The four criteria for eligibility are:



1. Be a graduating High School Senior with a "C" average or above.
2. Be a member of an ELCA Church.
3. Be a resident of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA.
4. Be attending an ELCA college.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

As this week unfolds, spend some time each day pondering the mind of Christ. What is the shape of his compassion? Describe the image of such great love. Finally, what does it feel like, physically, to be so utterly cared for?



Household Prayer: Morning

I rise, O God, awakened by your Word, to live another day. Lead me in your path. Show me the steps to take toward greater faith. Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week where the shadows deepen even in the daylight. Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I come to the darkness of night, O God, tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care. Keep me safe from all harm and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength. In Jesus' holy name, I pray. Amen.

"You shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise".

Deuteronomy 6:7