

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Welcome to worship at Christ the King Lutheran Church as we celebrate the Sunday of Palms and Passion. Today's liturgy reflects the tumultuous week ahead. During the past weeks, we spent 40 days of penitence. Historically, these were the days when those who were to be baptized would enter a time of intensified training in what it meant to be a part of the church. The days were marked as a time of almsgiving, fasting, and prayer – sometimes referred to as the three pillars of Lent. Today, we also reflect on what it means to be community, to care for others, to give of ourselves, to pray, to live as caretakers of creation and stewards of all God has given us. We reflect on how we have failed to live out our baptismal calling, and we turn to God, drinking in God's mercy as we seek to more fully reflect Jesus.

In our worship today, we quickly figure out that something has changed. On the last Sunday before Lent began, Transfiguration Sunday, we learned that Jesus was heading to Jerusalem. As today's liturgy begins, we learn that Jesus has arrived – and not quietly! We sing our loud Hosannas to Jesus, waving palms, and rejoicing as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. But quickly our cries of Hosanna turn to jeers of "Crucify Him." In this way, we mark the last days of our Lenten journey.

In the week ahead, we shall leave Lent, and enter the shortest and most dramatic season of the year – the Triduum, or Three Days. Our Lenten fast ends with worship on Maundy Thursday. It is then that we recall the final night Jesus spent with the disciples. We gather around the table Christ sets for us. Friday marks the Passion of our Lord. The great three days end with our great celebration of Easter and the joyous tidings that the tomb is empty. May God's blessing remain with you as we enter this Holy Week. Now, come, let us keep the sacred feast.

WORSHIP BEGINS AROUND THE FONT

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven! **Hosanna in the highest!**
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

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

(NT page 21)

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PROCESSION Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

Pave the Way with Branches

ACS 928

Jesus is coming...

Along dusty roadways...

Lead us to freedom...

GREETING

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us O God... **Your mercy is great.**

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Preparations

(NT page 28)

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

"Sonata No. 2 (second movement)"

JS Bach

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Institution of Communion (NT page 28)

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS:

As the Grains of Wheat
Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 465

ELW 335

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: To the Garden to Pray (NT page 28)

HYMN OF THE GARDEN

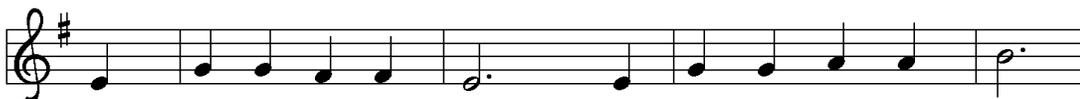
Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW 347, stanza 1

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Arrest and Betrayal (NT page 29)

KYRIE AND CONFESSION

(page 203 front of ELW)



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another:

Merciful Father, Loving Lord, we have sinned against heaven and before you. We claim you by day and yet deny you by night. We sleep. We are weak. We abandon and fail you. There are even times when we betray you, by not living as we ought, by selfishness, greed, lust, and pride. We humbly fall before you, Forgive us, O God.

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Despair (NT page 30)

Isaiah 50:4-9

(OT pg. 697)

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

MUSIC OF THE PASSION

"Via Dolorosa"

Words and Music by Niles Borop and Billy Sprague, Arranged by Tom Fettke

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Before Pilate (NT page 30)

HYMN OF LAMENT

O God Why Are You Silent

ELW 703 st. 1, 2

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Crucifixion (NT page 30)

MUSIC OF CRUCIFIXION

Were You There by Lloyd Larson

Chapel Ringers

Words of Forgiveness

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Jesus Dies (NT page 31)
A time of reflection – tolling of bell

Philippians 2:5-11 (NT pg. 189)
Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF GLORY *All Glory, Laud and Honor* **ELW 344 st. 1, 5**

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew: Buried in the Tomb (NT page 31)

Holy Week Blessing *The assembly stands to receive the blessing.*

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

Presiding	Pastor Per Halaas
Lectors	Verla Olson, Loren & Linda Thompson, Rick Turnquist
Director of Music Ministry	Kristi MacKay
Assisting Director of Music	Darin Tysdal
Special Music	Chapel Ringers, Trinity Choir

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In your prayers this week, please remember:

- **For the family of Kaye LeBaron who passed away on 3/20. Her funeral will be at Dawn Valley on 3/31.**
- **Continuing Prayers: Ryan Jones** (Jane B's nephew), **Robert Thornton** (Carol's husband), **Pam Novak** (friend of Chris Gabel), **Lavonne Kennedy** (Clare Erickson's sister), **Jim Wegge** (Bev Wegge's brother), **Isaac Hill** (grandson of Gail & John, nephew of Melissa), **Jackie Schmeidlin** (friend of Sean Bernier), **Shirley Gentz**, **Pastor David** and **Diane Lerseth**, **David Newhall** (Liz Olson's brother), **Julie Allen** (friend of Lynne Gasterland), **Michael R. Vogel** (Mike Vogel's son), **Susan Hanson**, **David Niemand** (Holly Hauer's brother), **Donna Woodward** (sister of Dan Pierce), **Geralyn Barone** (friend of John & Kim Gunyou), **Chris Wondra** (friend of Sean Johnson) **Jim and Arlene Knutson**, **Cori Shuck** (sister of Jodi Haddox), **Steve Olson**, **Dan Talbot**, **Bev Ohmann**, **Doug Solberg**, **Erin Gillis**, **Gail Parsons** (Shelly Olson's stepmom) and **Ty Waxdahl** (Florence Smallfield's nephew)
- **New prayers: Meg Schmidt**
- **Steve Olson** and all who are homebound
- **Our sister in China, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, El comunidad de fe bilingue/The bilingual faith community of Tapestry Lutheran Church in Richfield**
- **ISAIAH Minnesota Faith Coalition**

March Gift of Love – Beacon Interfaith!

[Beacon is a collaborative of congregations and housing advocates who believe that secure, affordable housing provides the key to safer communities, stronger families, and a healthier economy.](#) Together with Beacon, we support the building of new affordable apartment homes, invest in residents through supportive services, and champion policy solutions to ensure everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home. Beacon homes serve over 1,200 residents in the greater Twin Cities metro, and their policy work impacts the entire state. Help us support this amazing ministry partner that is advancing the cause of quality, affordable homes in all communities!

This Week at Christ the King

Loaves & Fishes provide a free drive-up meal
Monday-Friday from 5-6pm – all are welcome!

MONDAY – March 30

8:30a Church Chore Crew
9:00a Quilting – Social Hall

TUESDAY – March 31

10:00a Staff Meeting – Office
4:00p Lenten Book Club - Lounge
6:30p Yoga
6:30p Chapel Ringers

WEDNESDAY – April 1

2:00p Walk & Talk - MOA
7:00p Trinity Choir

THURSDAY – April 2 Maundy Thursday

9:30a-Noon Country Jammers – Social Hall
7:00p Worship

FRIDAY – April 3 Good Friday

6:30p Youth Lock-In
7:00p Worship

Are you a member of Thrivent?

Looking for an easy way to support and strengthen Christ the King? Participate in Thrivent Choice®, Thrivent's charitable outreach program. Eligible Thrivent clients with membership can influence where Thrivent distributes some of its outreach funding each year. If you're eligible, you can direct your *Choice Dollars* to thousands of organizations, including Christ the King. The deadline to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars is **March 31, 2026**. For more information about the Thrivent Choice program and Choice Dollars: visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836. We thank you for any and all support!



Next Weekend at Christ the King

SATURDAY – April 4

12:30p Prep & Set-up for Easter Brunch

SUNDAY – April 5 – Easter Sunday

9:30a **Worship with Holy Communion**
10:30a Maranatha Christian Congregation
10:40a Easter Brunch – Social Hall
Easter Egg Hunt – Meet in the Library Area

Holy Week—there is no Bible Study or Wednesday evening Worship 4/1. The office will be closed on Monday, April 6th. There will also be no Bible Study or Worship on 4/8—Pastor Per will be on a well-deserved vacation. Bible Study at 9am will resume on 4/15.

Volunteers for April

If you would like to greet, read, assist, serve/prep communion, or serve coffee on any of the following Sundays & Holy Week:

Greeters 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

Reader 4/2(MT), 4/3(GF), 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

Assisting 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

Prayers 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

Communion servers(2) 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

Communion prep on 4/5, 4/19

Make Coffee 4/19

2 Ushers Needed for Maundy Thursday 4/2 and Good Friday 4/3

Please call the office 952-881-8600 or email Jane V at jvevea@ctkb.org.

Spring Plant Sale

Our Children's Ministry Spring Plant Sale profits will support our summer programs. **Online orders close at 10PM Thursday, April 6** with plants available for pick up at CTK on Tuesday, May 12, 5-7pm. To order, go to www.gertensfundraising.com and enter our ID code 490.

Easter Altar Flowers

Order sheets for Easter flowers can be found on the Library desk or in the office during Lent. Flowers can be ordered in honor of, or in memory of loved ones for display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. **Orders are due by March 29th.**

Easter Brunch after Easter worship – 10:45am to Noon – Free-will offering

EASTER- April 5th- Food donation sign-up sheet on the counter: *Egg bake, *Juice, *Pastries. Food donations and help for Easter Brunch flyers and sign-up sheets are on the Counter in the commons.

Collecting CANDY For EASTER egg hunt - Drop off by April 3rd