

PALM SATURDAY – MARCH 28TH, 2026

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in
God's love with all people.*



Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity.

*You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable.
In Christ's love, we welcome you.*

MINISTERS
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
KAREN HOFSTAD



ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 28th, 2026 | Saturday (Palm Sunday) | 5:00 PM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

PRELUDE Karen Erickson

LITURGY OF THE PALMS – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

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

We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was acclaimed Son of David and King of Kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King, and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PROCESSION OF PALMS #842 “Oh, Worship the King” (vs. 1, 2, 5)

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

GATHERING LITANY

Humble and riding on a donkey... **We greet you.**

Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children... **We cheer you.**

Moving from the peace and quiet of the countryside to the corridors of power... **We salute you, Christ our Lord.**

You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity; you are giving majesty a new face; you are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing. **With them, with heart and voice, we shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna to our King!"**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

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 awakens, awakens 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?

SECOND 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.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

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.**

MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #346 *“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”*
(to the tune of “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”)

APOSTLES’ CREED

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

+OFFERTORY #186 - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNITY WORD

READING *“Holy Week”*

BENEDICTION

May our Lord, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, help us this week to take up the cross and follow him. 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 #338 *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus “*

DISMISSAL Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29TH 2026

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 36:5-11, Human Wickedness and Divine Goodness

Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Christ the Power of God

Wednesday, Isaiah 50:4-9a, The Suffering Servant

Thursday, John 13:1-17, Washing the Feet of the Disciples

Friday, John 18:1-19:42, The Passion Story

Saturday, Romans 6:3-11, Dying and Rising with Christ

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

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!"-Matthew 27:54

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.

- How would you explain the meaning of the cross as a symbol of your faith? (Matt 27:32-54)
- What is the biggest challenge, difficulty or puzzle in your life of faith today? (Isaiah 50:4-9)
- How has your understanding and vision of a triune God changed in your lifetime? (Phil 2:5-11)

PRAY: 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.**

BLESS: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. Amen.