

Hosanna in the highest!



PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 28 / 29, 2026



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY
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Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty God, you have fulfilled your word and sent us a Savior to live and die for us. The King became the Servant so that we might be saved and become the sons and daughters of the living God. For this we thank and praise you. Accept the praises of your people who cry out again: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HANDBELLS 8 & 9:30am *The Power of the Cross* arr. Peggy Bettcher

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you. (spoken)

M: Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion his entry that celebrated ahead of time his empty tomb, and let us follow him with a lively faith. United with him by Baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life.

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

C: Hosanna in the highest!

OPENING HYMN 6:30pm & 11am *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* CW 413

- 1 Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
thro' pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
- 2 From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

- 3 “Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav’n, our King.
Oh, may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice
and in his royal presence eternally rejoice.

OPENING HYMN *“Hosanna! Blessed Is the King!”* arr. Lloyd Larson
8 & 9:30am

Introduction

(Narration) When they were approaching Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead of him. They found a colt, brought it to Jesus, and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

Those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

CHOIR

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna, hosanna! Blessed is the King! Hosanna, hosanna! Come, rejoice and sing!

Interlude

CONGREGATION

- Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple, The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, Close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.**
- From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.**

Interlude – PLEASE STAND

3. **"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heav'n, our King.
Oh, may we ever praise him, With heart and life and voice,
And in his royal presence Eternally rejoice.**

CHOIR

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna, hosanna! Blessed is the King! Hosanna, hosanna! Come, rejoice and sing!

CONFESSION - ABSOLUTION

M: If we say we have no sin, we are lying to ourselves.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

M: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and action. We are imperfect stewards of all the good things with which You entrust us. We let worries and concerns rob us of the joy You would give. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.

M: For our sakes, Jesus Christ became poor, so that through His poverty we might be made rich indeed. For His sake God forgives all our sins. God has made us His children and bestowed on us the Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Therefore, I, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (spoken)

BE SEATED

CHOIR ANTHEM 8 & 9:30am *Hosanna, Hosanna!* arr. Martin / Williams

*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King.
Hosanna, hosanna, rang through the crowded streets.
Thousands came to see Him, to cheer as He rode by.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna was their cry.*

*Jesus entered into Jerusalem, people spread their garments on the road.
Blessed is the seed of Abraham. Blessed is the King foretold.
The multitudes all praised Him, they waved the palms of praise.
They welcomed the Messiah as He came through the gates.*

*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King.
Hosanna, hosanna, rang through the crowded streets.
Thousands came to see Him, to cheer as He rode by.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna was their cry.*

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

FIRST LESSON

Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Welcome the King

Psalm 24B

8 & 9:30am - Congregation sings verses 2, 4, 6, 7 and all refrains

Refrain



Wel - come the King of glo - ry, each tribe and na - tion!



He is the LORD Al - might - y, bring - ing sal - va - tion.

Verses



- 1 See, all the earth is God's, its peo - ple and na - tions;
- 2 Who can go up this moun - tain, who stand in prais - ing?
- 3 They shall re - ceive for - give - ness, and have God's bless - ing
- 4 Come, lift your voic - es high, be lift - ed to glo - ry;

Refrain (sung after each verse)



God built it on the deeps and laid its foun - da - tions.
 Those who are pure, who come with clean hands up - rais - ing.
 if they will search for God, their Sav - ior con - fess - ing.
 the LORD our God ap - proach - es, come, shout the sto - ry.

5 Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty LORD, our God celebrating. (Refrain)

6 Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tower;
the King of glory comes in full might and power. (Refrain)

7 Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?
Our God, this LORD of hosts, the vict'ry is bringing. (Refrain)

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 6:30pm & 11am

John 12:23



GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

CHOIR 8 & 9:30am

“Verse of the Day for Palm Sunday”

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (John 12:23)

BE SEATED

SERMON HYMN

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

CW 411

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue your road, with palms and scattered garments strowed.
- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin o’er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wond’ring eyes to see th’ approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son.
- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, your pow’r and reign.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR PALM SUNDAY**OFFERING****HYMN***Exult Today, Jerusalem*

CW 415

- 1 Exult today, Jerusalem! God comes to set you free!
This royal Son of Bethlehem fulfills all prophecy.
This greater Jonah of renown God's love and pow'r displays;
he comes to tear God's temple down and raise it in three days!
- 2 With joy, the city resonates! O Zion's daughter, sing!
Lift up your heads, you mighty gates, and greet your coming King!
He rides no horse with prancing strides, as kings before him came,
but on a donkey humbly rides, his office to proclaim:
- 3 The Christ! A Prophet greater than that giver of the law;
a Priest, not born from Levi's clan, but born without sin's flaw;
a King, one like that priestly king, Melchizedek of old,
for Christ, as thorn-crowned King will bring God's righteousness foretold.

4 Christ's glory is not seen by those offended by the cross,
for worldly wisdom never knows how gain could come from loss;
yet, this the glory of the Christ: to claim our cross as throne—
his perfect life he sacrificed that we might be his own!

5 So wave your palms and fill the air with shouts of joy this day;
the King of glory comes to bear your sin and death away!
Hosanna, Lord! Your people save! O come, Emmanuel,
and by your cross and shattered grave, tear down the gates of hell!

PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

CW 412

Refrain All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

- 1 You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. (Refrain)
- 2 The company of angels is praising you on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. (Refrain)
- 3 The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. (Refrain)
- 4 To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. (Refrain)
- 5 As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King. (Refrain)

PREACHER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

PRESIDING MINISTER

Staff Minister Paul Kuske

ORGANIST

Adrian Smith

SR. CHOIR 8 & 9:30am

Adrian Smith

HANDBELLS

Becky Berg

VIOLIN

Nathanael Smith

PERCUSSION

Caleb Krahn

TRUMPET

Katie Rosenau, Eric Smith, Josiah Smith

HORN

William Archer, Katie Ungemach

TROMBONE

Adam Conrad, Elijah Ruddat, Noah Sulzle

TUBA

Samuel Schams

ORGANIST

George Hogan

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Verse of the day for Palm Sunday by Bruce Backer.copyright 1994 NPH

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Thursday	11 am	Maundy Thursday Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
	7:30 pm	Choir
Friday	12 pm	Tre Ore Service @ St. Paul's
	7 pm	Tenebrae Service
Saturday	6:30 pm	No Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Apr. 5 th	7 & 9:30 am	Easter Worship
	8:15 am	Easter Brunch
Monday, Apr. 6 th		Office Closed
Tuesday, Apr. 7 th	6:30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 8 th	6 pm	Examination Practice
Thursday, Apr. 9 th	10 am	Bible Class ~ Simple Way to Pray
	5:30 pm	Board of Child Discipleship
	7 pm	Bible Class ~ Life of David
Saturday, Apr. 11 th	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 596.

Fruits of Faith:

\$11,177 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$206,753 / YTD: \$204,327
\$1,171 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$20,902 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$1,242 MVL ~ YTD: \$13,833 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
\$75 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$19,390 (\$21,400)
\$560 Building Fund
\$125 Food + Fellowship
\$50 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$258 Altar and Flowers
\$535 K-12 Education Assistance
\$100 St. Paul's
\$108 Miscellaneous Income

Easter Breakfast ~ Easter is just a few weeks away which means the signup sheets for Easter breakfast are out in the narthex. Please consider signing up to bring one of the listed items and enjoy the celebration of Easter with us from 8:00-9:00 AM on Easter Sunday morning! If you have any questions you are welcome to contact Carrie Schaefer at carriehieb@yahoo.com.

New Women's Bible Study ~ Join us Sunday evenings for a Bible Study for women by women. All lessons are pulled directly from the WELS Women's Ministry website, under the oversight of the pastors. Being a woman can be challenging, but it can also be so rewarding! Please come, bring a friend, bring your questions, and be ready to have a fun time learning about the Bible! What to expect: Fellowship! Random games! Guest pastor appearances! Learning about our Savior! Fun! When: most Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm in the St. John's basement. Upcoming dates: 4/12, 4/19 (both with Pastor Guenther), 4/26, 5/3, and 5/10. Contact Rachel Lang (rachelandabbott@gmail.com) or Pastor Guenther (507-240-2433 or pastorguenther@gmail.com) with questions.

Grand Piano on the Wish List ~ St. John's Worship Committee would like to replace the piano in the front of the church. The existing piano was not designed for a large space seating 350 people, but for a house or small music studio. The council has approved that a new 5-foot Yamaha grand piano (to be placed in the front of the sanctuary near the lectern) be added to the wish list. This piano would enrich our worship as it fills the church with sound. It's known for its stability of tuning and action and delivers a clear sound that would accompany the congregation and choirs well. The cost is approximately \$21,400 for the piano, delivery and installation, and all needed accessories. If you are interested in contributing to this worship enhancement, please note "Piano" on your offering envelope or electronic gift. To God be the glory!

Church Cleaning ~ An indoor/outdoor work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th from 9-11 a.m. It is a come and go event. Men, women, and children are needed. For the outdoor work garden rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels will be needed; please bring what you can. Many hands make light work! All cleaning supplies will be provided. Questions? Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) or Mikal Schwark (507-304-3121).

Pick up Kitchen Items ~ Items to be picked up from the round table at the back of the fellowship hall: Salad fork/spoon (initials EN), cake pan & Tupperware bowl (J. Roux), pie plate (MaryJo Johnson), plastic storage container with clovers (L. Fisher). All unidentified and/or unclaimed items remaining on the table on April 18th will be taken to the Treasure Haus. Thank you for helping keep our kitchen neat by reclaiming your serving containers.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Ulm Food Shelf ~ St. John's is sponsoring a food drive for the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf during March. The New Ulm Food Shelf serves people in New Ulm, Lafayette, Hanska, Searles, Essig, and Courtland. We are collecting monetary donations and non-perishable food items (See the poster in the Narthex for ideas of what to donate). Place food items in the boxes in the narthex and monetary donations in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate (if you write a check, please make it payable to the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf) by Sunday, March 29. For questions, contact Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) or Carla Melendy (507-217-9750).

MVL Concert ~ The MVL Music Department invites you to its annual Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the MVL Fine Arts Center. This year's program, themed What Wondrous Love, will celebrate the Lent and Easter seasons with performances by the A Cappella Choir, Freshmen Choir, MVL Chargaliers, and the Symphonic Band. A freewill offering will be collected.

MVL to Recognize Service in the Ministry ~ In conjunction with the Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School will give thanks to God for Mrs. Rebecca Berg and her forty years of service in the ministry. In addition, MVL will also recognize with appreciation the ministry of Mr. Rollin Timm and Mr. Craig Morgan as they retire from their service at the close of this current school year. The concert will begin at 7:00 in the Fine Arts Center at MVL, and this recognition will take place during the concert. Following the concert, there will be a reception in the Activities Commons. All are invited to attend.

About the Cover ~ The image on the bulletin cover is the work of French artist James (Jacques) Tissot (1836-1902) known best for his watercolor paintings, many of which are Biblical scenes. This painting is a portrayal of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey in fulfillment of the prophecy by Zacchariah who declared some five-hundred years before Jesus' birth that the King would come in humility but with the sound of rejoicing. Though he would be greeted with joy and enthusiasm, he would ride on in sorrow to his crucifixion and death on behalf of the sins of the entire human race. Therefore we sing, "Hosanna!" That is, "Save us, LORD!"