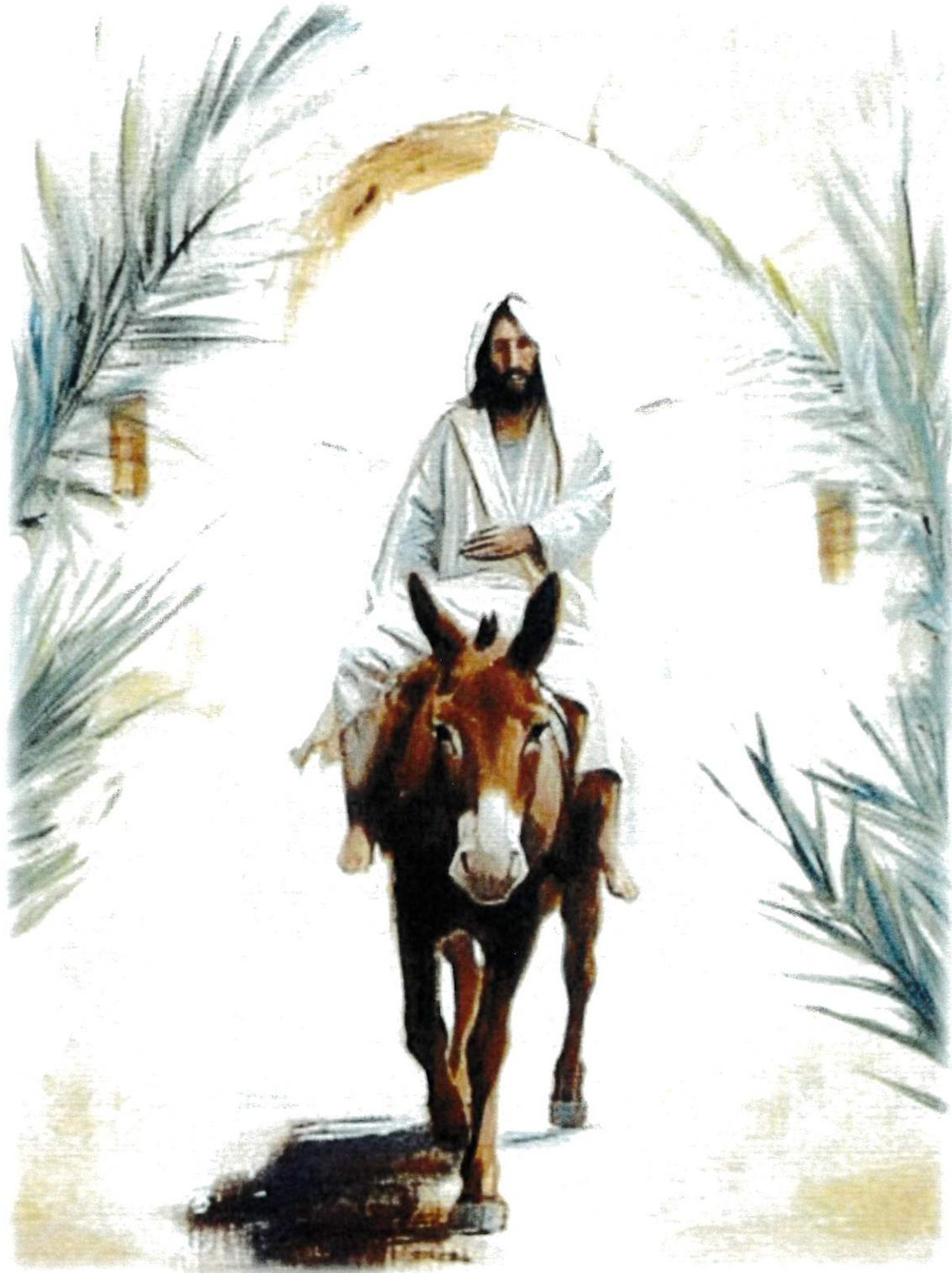


*St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*Holstein, IA*

*March 29, 2026*

*9:00 AM*



*Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday*

*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. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

The processional Gospel is from the 21st chapter of Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "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."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!"

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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 Christ. Amen.**

**Processional Songs:**

***Sounds of Celebration - Palm Sunday Procession***

***All Glory, Laud, and Honor* st. 1-4 #344**

***Pave the Way with Branches***



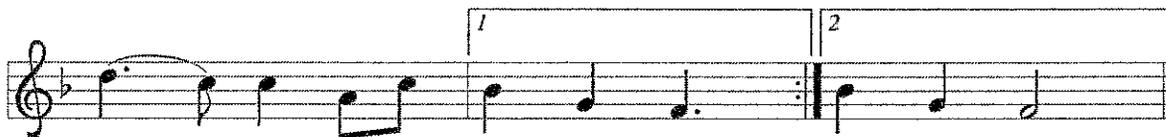
\*Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.



Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.



Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -



san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957 Text © 1999 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
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\* Release for the captives...

\* Hope for the downtrod...

## Children's Message

### Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> 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.**

### Hymn of the Day

### *Lead Me to the Cross*

(see insert)

### Apostles' Creed

**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.**

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Children's Offering/Offering

### Offering Prayer

God of all creation, we are yours and all we have belongs to you. Accept these offerings and bless their use in your work among us.

**Amen.**

## Hymn of the Day

How can I be free from sin?

65

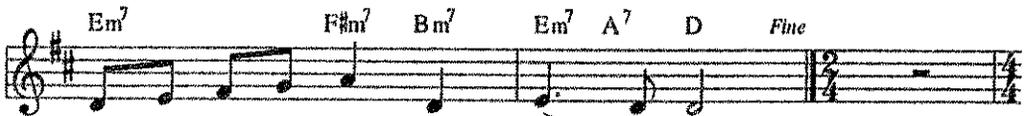
*Lead me to the cross*



1 How can I be free from sin? lead me to the cross of  
 3 How can I know peace with-in? lead me to the cross of  
 5 How can I live day by day? lead me to the cross of



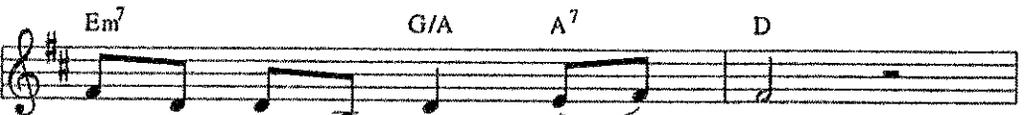
Je - sus; from the guilt, the pow'r, the pain,  
 Je - sus; sing a song of joy a - gain,  
 Je - sus; fol - low - ing his nar - row way,



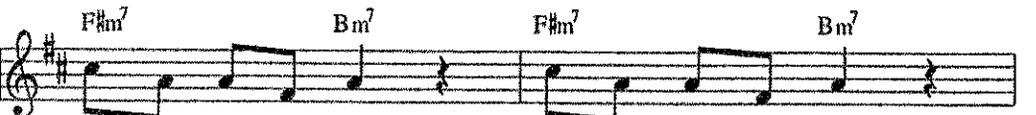
lead me to the cross of Je - sus.  
 lead me to the cross of Je - sus.  
 lead me to the cross of Je - sus.



2 There's no oth - er way, no price that I could pay,  
 4 Flow - ing from a - bove, all - for - giv - ing love,



simp - ly to the cross I cling.  
 from the Fa - ther's heart to me.



This is all I need, this is all I plead,  
 What a gift of grace, his own righ - teous - ness,



that his blood was shed for me.  
 cloth - ing me in pu - ri - ty.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

As we now enter into the contemplation of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

**The Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew** (26:14-27:66)

See pamphlet - congregation reads the bolded part of the People

## Prayers of the People

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of  
+ Jesus Christ, and the light of the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### Closing Song

### *Jesus Messiah*

(Leader will sing verses; congregation please join in the refrains.)

He became sin, who knew no sin; that we might become His righteousness;  
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Refrain: **Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer;  
Emmanuel.**

**The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

His body the bread, His blood the wine broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Refrain

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;  
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

Refrain

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Vamos Publishing/worshiptogether.com songs/Wondrously Made Songs, All rights reserved. CCLI License #833795

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*If you or your family would like to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter with an Easter Lily or other flowers, please be sure to notify the office by Thursday, April 2nd. Please let us know if they will be in honor of or in memory of someone so we can have it published.*

*Flowers may be dropped off any time on Friday, April 3rd or Saturday, April 4th.*

### **Worship Participants**

<b>Ministers:</b>	All the members
<b>Vicar:</b>	Millie Anderson
<b>DYME:</b>	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Organist:</b>	Sharen Borchers
<b>Pianist:</b>	Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Lector:</b>	Mary Ruffridge
<b>Deacons:</b>	Mitch Trost and John Walsh
<b>Greeters:</b>	Doug & Mary Ruffridge
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Kelby Butcher and Kaleb VanHouten
<b>Special Music:</b>	Sounds of Celebration bell choir
<b>Sound and Video:</b>	Kelby & Joy Wulf
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Youth Group Brunch



### **St. Paul Church Calendar**

#### **SUNDAY, March 29 ~ Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday**

- 9:00 AM** Worship
- 10:00 AM** Sunday School
- 10:00 AM** Brunch hosted by Youth Group

#### **WEDNESDAY, April 1**

- 6:00 PM** Seder Meal for First Communion students and families

#### **THURSDAY, April 2**

- 7:00 PM** Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion

#### **FRIDAY, April 3**

- 7:00 PM** Good Friday worship with Holstein UMC @ St. Paul  
*All offerings from this worship service will go toward the Holstein Ministerial Association Fund*

#### **SUNDAY, April 5**

- 7:00 AM** Easter Sunrise worship with Holy Communion
- 8:00 AM** Light coffee hour
- 9:00 AM** Easter Worship with Holy Communion