

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

COMMEMORATIONS
FOR THE WEEK

a little about the Scripture readings today and the saints of the Church we remember this week...

SCRIPTURE

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.

SECOND READING: **Philippians 2:5-11**
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.

GOSPEL: **Matthew 27:11-54**
In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that the new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824
March 29
Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631
March 31
After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589
April 4
Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.



Worship Liturgy
for the
Sunday of the Passion
[Palm Sunday]

March 29, 2026

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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Scripture Readings for Palm/Passion Sunday

PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 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.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4–9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, 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. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I 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. ⁷The 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; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54

[Congregation is seated]

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that

they had handed him over. ¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” ²⁴So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, [KNEEL] they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. ⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. [STAND] ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now 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!”



Resurrection Sunday

Festive Worship Liturgy

Sunday, April 5

Festive Sanctuary Worship 8:30 and 10:00 AM
Virtual Worship Livestream on Facebook 8:30 AM



Alleluia! He is Risen!



Sunday of the Passion

[Palm Sunday]

March 29, 2026

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Dale Wood

The Sanctus Bells proclaim the advent of worship and Christ's presence with us. Please rise as the bells are rung.

Greeting

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

Hosanna in the Highest.

Introit

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Palm Sunday Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Spoken response after the announcement of the Gospel: Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading of the Gospel: 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.**

Greeting

Let us praise God with our palms and voices.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Children's Anthem

Hosanna

John D. Horman

Word

God speaks to us in Bible reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16 [read responsively]

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

The Passion of our Lord according to Matthew

[The congregation sits for the reading of the Passion narrative.]

[The faithful kneel in reverence and adoration at the Crucifixion of Jesus, after verse 35:

“And when they had crucified him...” [kneel]

The congregation stands after verse 50:

“Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.” [stand]

Sermon

Pastor Heagy

Hymn of the Day

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

ELW 346

Nicene Creed

ELW page 104

Prayers of the Faithful

[response to each petition: “Your mercy is great.”]

Exchange of Peace

Offertory Prayer:

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Anthem

Carol of the Hill

Stephen Paulus

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

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

Lift up your hearts. / We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface for the Passion:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

ELW page 162

Verba [the faithful kneel]

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Holy Week Prayer Vigil begins today!

The reservation chart on which you may reserve your hour [s] of prayer is in the Narthex.

**Please reserve your hour [s] today!
Many hours remain!**

A guidebook listing congregational members, missionaries, church leaders, governmental officials, the afflicted, and the home-bound and suggested openings and closings for your hour of prayer is available.

Saturday, April 4 at 9:30 am, we will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter.
All are welcome to join.



Resurrection of our Lord Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, March 29 Crucifer Lector

8:30	TBD	Tim Honkala
10:00	Henry Keplar	Gayle Homberg

Easter flower donors are welcome to see a member of the Music and Worship Committee immediately following the late Easter Day Liturgy to receive their ordered plants from the chancel.

**Lenten Devotions are located
in the Narthex and in the Foyer.**



WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin; Bill Young; Shari Ehrlich; Dave Young; Patrick Brown; Pete Lester;



THE BRANCHES OF PALM distributed and blessed at worship today are to be taken home and placed where they can be a reminder of the joyous acclamation given to our Lord upon His entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches are to be returned to worship on Transfiguration Sunday. The pots of palm adorning our sanctuary and the palm branches for blessing and distribution are the gift of the Bognar Family in loving remembrance of Edwin and Nadine Bognar.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to God's greater glory in loving memory of Frank Brown by Noreene Brown; To the Greater Glory of God by Sam and Sandra Sarnicke.

**LENTEN MIDWEEK
VIRTUAL DEVOTIONS
Wednesday at 7:30 PM
LIVE on our Facebook page**

**REMINDER TO CHURCH MEMBERS WITH
THRIVENT ACCOUNTS:
March 31 is the deadline to direct your
"Choice Dollars" to our Church. Thank you.**

Global Links: Tuesday, April 14 1-3:00 pm
Sign up sheet located in the Narthex, or call the Church office to volunteer to pack medical equipment for the needy. Any questions, please contact Sara Dougherty at [412-523-1499](tel:412-523-1499) or tjdsjd@verizon.net

Stop by the Reflection Garden in the Foyer area today and follow the "Symbols of Holy Week"
Return to the Foyer on Easter Sunday to see the Resurrection Garden!

**Farewell Lunch
for Dr. Christopher Keenan**
All are invited to join us at St. Clair Country Club on Saturday, April 18th at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$35.00 for the buffet. Sign up sheets are located in this bulletin, or call the Church office. If you wish to attend and the cost is prohibitive, please contact Pastor Heagy who will make confidential arrangements so all will attend.

**Vacation Bible School
July 13-17 – 9am-12pm**
VBS Volunteers needed in the following roles:
Science Teachers, Recreation Leaders, Craft Assistants, Crew Leaders, Site Assistants, and Decorators. Please contact Julia Nelson at jmnelson26@comcast.net for more information or to volunteer.

**My E-Offering
Please contribute to the Church using the
QR code below:**



Lord's Prayer
Invitation to the Table

ELW page 163

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.
Thanks be to God!

Agnus Dei
Distribution

ELW 164

Hymn ELW 338 is sung during distribution of the Eucharist

Post Communion Prayer

O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and protection. Release us now to go on our way in this Holy Week ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction

Hymn

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Silent Postlude

Soli Deo Gloria

WELCOME to this festive liturgy which has its origins in fourth century Jerusalem. We enter Holy Week through the Sunday of the Passion, which focuses our vision on Word and Sacrament. We celebrate our Lord's passage from death to life and our deliverance from sin through grace. Our liturgy opens with a remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and moves from exuberance to the solemnity of our Lord's passion.

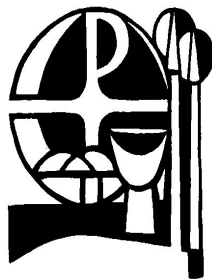
A SPECIAL WELCOME to all who are visiting with us. If you wish to join our church family please call us or send us an email, and introduce yourself to the Pastor. *We look forward to welcoming you back soon.*
USHERS can assist you with during Sanctuary Worship. Restroom facilities for the physically challenged are located just north of the Narthex.
NURSERY CARE will again be available during both the early and late church services. Children are always welcome in worship.
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION
During Holy Communion, the congregation processes down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the bread and wine. We commune by intinction, the dipping of the bread in the chalice. Dip only the tip of the bread into the wine, NOT YOUR FINGERS! After communing, return to your seats for prayer and song. Direct any questions to the ushers. Gluten free hosts are available.

The Great and Holy Week



**This week of March 29-April 5
at Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**
[Church Office 412 563-0300; hours 9:00-2:00 Weekdays Only]
For Pastoral Emergency only 412 926-5440 [cell]

Holy Thursday— Festive Sanctuary Worship & Virtual on Facebook April 2 at 7:30 pm



Holy Thursday marks the institution of the Lord's Supper and a call to heed Jesus' two commandments: Love one another as I have loved you and Do this in remembrance of me. The Altar will be stripped to signify Jesus' betrayal when he was stripped of glory and placed into the hands of His captors.

Good Friday-Festive Sanctuary Worship & Virtual on Facebook April 3 at 7:30 pm

Our Tenebrae Liturgy is an adaptation of the ancient office of light dimming used to impress upon the hearts and minds of believers the awful consequences of sin and magnitude of our Savior's sacrifice. The liturgy includes hymns [sung without accompaniment], readings which trace the experience of our Lord from His trial before Pilate to His crucifixion, death and burial, and prayers. Worshipers sense the grueling ordeal as the path of Jesus is traced through the sanctuary.



**Jesus, in thy dying woes,
Even while thy lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for thy foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Today		Sunday of the Passion/ Palm Sunday Holy Week Prayer Vigil begins
Monday		Holy Week Prayer Vigil
Tuesday		Holy Week Prayer Vigil
Wednesday	7:00	Choir Rehearsal Holy Week Prayer Vigil
Thursday	7:30	Holy Thursday Sanctuary Worship Liturgy- In-Person & Live on Facebook Page Holy Week Prayer Vigil
Friday	7:30	Good Friday Tenebrae Sanctuary Worship Liturgy- In-Person and Live on Facebook Page Holy Week Prayer Vigil
Sunday		<i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> 8:30 Festive Worship Liturgy Live on Face book Page 10:00 Festive Worship Liturgy



**The Liturgy may be viewed on our Facebook page
and YouTube Channel.**



Today we welcome the Children's Choir,
led by Barbara Heagy and
Carol Vogeley at our
10:00 Worship Liturgy.

Social Ministry 2026 Lenten Service Project
Gift Cards & Bedding/Blanket Drive continues through Next Sunday, Easter Sunday. Recommended gift cards from Aldi's, Walmart and Uber in denominations of \$25-\$50. Bedding recommendations is new pillows and new or gently used but washed blankets, beddings and towels. Please see full article in the February Voice Newsletter.

The Reverend Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Reverend Melissa Stoller
Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

Congregational Staff:
The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy
Senior Pastor
Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA
Director of Music and Organist
Mr. Larry Allen
Director of Music and Organist Emeritus
Mrs. Kris Malia
Parish Secretary