

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

“The Mind/Attitude of Your King” -- Philippians 2:5–11

10:00 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

**8305 NOTTINGHAM PARKWAY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40222**

Vacancy Pastors: *Rev. Ron Richeson, Rev. Mark Whitsett*

DCE Intern: *Corrine Burmeister*

Deaconess: *Margy Whitsett*

Principal: *Chip Davidson*

Director of Music: *Scott Kamman*

Today's organist: *Scott Kamman*

Church contacts

(502) 426-1130

www.oursaviorlouisville.com

www.facebook.com/oursaviorlouisville

School contacts

(502) 426-0864

www.osllouisville.com

www.facebook.com/OSLSLouisville

We warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus!

We are always glad to have you worship with us.

*If you do not have a regular church home,
we invite you to make our church home yours.*

- † Our worship services are on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We also invite and encourage you to join us in Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:45 AM.
- † Assisted hearing devices, children's bulletins, and large print service folders are available -- please ask an usher for one.
- † While we encourage children to be present in worship, the upstairs cry room opposite the elevator is available for you.
- † Our worship services can now be viewed on the church's Facebook page (live or after the service), as well as on our YouTube channel. *The Lutheran Hour* can be heard on Sundays at 9:00 AM at KAWZ (102.7FM).

Prayer before worship:

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

AS WE GATHER Today we enter the Great and Holy Week of our faith, the very heart and center of God's greatest act since the Creation itself—the salvation of mankind by the overthrow of sin, death, and the devil, and the restoration of all creation through the power of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. As we join the crowds welcoming Jesus, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, we plan to get swept up in the drama of the story many know so well.

Peter wrote, "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13). On this day "preparing [our] minds for action" makes us as contemplate and consider what was in the mind of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem to the cheers of adults and children waving palms and shouting praise. What was our Lord thinking as He gathered His disciples for the Last Supper of Passover? As He prayed in Gethsemane's garden? When He was arrested, falsely tried, abused, and sentenced to death by crucifixion? What was in the Savior's mind as He hung on that cross? For the obvious impossibility of our ability to know the depths of the God who says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways" (Isaiah 55:8), there is one thing we can know for sure—He had you in mind. We know that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16).

Our service begins in the Narthex.

Ring of the Bell

Greeting

- P** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

Collect

- P** Let us pray.
Lord God, as the people in Jerusalem gathered to welcome Your Son, our Lord, when He came into His holy city, so we sing of Your coming among us today with songs of praise. Keep us steadfast in our hope and confession of faith throughout our lives that we may meet Him with grateful hearts when He comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Processional Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**
- P** Let us go forth in peace,
- C** **in the name of the Lord.** *We proceed into the sanctuary.*

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,
 To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain
 Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
 And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
 Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
 To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt., Text and tune: Public domain

When all have arrived at their place, the procession concludes:

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest.**

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Anthem—Adult & Hosanna Choirs “Blessed Is He Who Comes” by Becki Slagle Mayo

Readings

Old Testament Reading

The servant's obedience.

Isaiah 50:4-9a

R The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Christ's example of humility.

Philippians 2:5-11

R Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Alleluia is omitted during Lent. Due to the length of the Gospel, please remain seated.

Verse

Philippians 2:8b

- C** He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Holy Gospel

The Passion.

Matthew 27:11-66

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, beginning at the twenty-seventh chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**
- P** Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
- A** "Yes, it is as you say."
- P** When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.
- A** "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?"
- P** But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge--to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them,
- A** "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"
- P** For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message:
- C** **"Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."**
- P** But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.
- A** "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.
- C** **"Barabbas!"**
- A** "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?"
- C** **"Crucify him!"**
- A** "Why? What crime has he committed?"
- P** But they shouted all the louder,
- C** **"Crucify him!"**
- P** When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd.
- A** "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"
- C** **"Let his blood be on us and on our children!"**
- P** Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him.

C "Hail, king of the Jews!"

P They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

P Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying,

C "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

P In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him.

C "He saved others but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' "

P In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

A "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

P When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said,

C "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

P And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed,

C "Surely he was the Son of God!"

P There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate

† Children and those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing (indicated by folded hands), or to remain seated for individual prayer. When the wine is offered, communicants have the choice of an individual cup or the common cup. Individual cups containing DARK WINE are alcohol-free for those with medical need only, please.

Prayer

Please stand.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Collect of the Day / Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

P Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P O God, for all the joy with which the people in Jerusalem greeted Your Son that day when He entered the holy city for the final time and for all the joy we feel this day as we gather before You in praise and worship, we recall His goal that week and our great need for His accomplishment of Your will of salvation. Grant that the remembrance of His innocent suffering and death draw us nearer to You in true repentance of our sin. Give us faith that the door of mercy is still open to us with the deliverance He won on the cross, bestowing forgiveness of sin and eternal life in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer. Hosanna in the highest.

- P** Grant that the Good News of Your work of salvation through Your Son for the life of the world be proclaimed throughout our world today by Your holy church through faithful pastors and witnesses in every place, that many turn to You and hear Your invitation for reconciliation with You through faith in Your great goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**
- P** Grant Your blessing and guidance to all servant-leaders in our country and in all nations, that righteousness and peace may prevail. End all conflicts or wars. Bless all institutions of learning and research. Grant success to farmers and producers of food for all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and grant Your blessing.**
- P** As we all contend with the challenges of living still in a fallen world, we pray for Your help and healing of all who are sick, injured, troubled in any way, those who are lonely or afraid, [*especially . . .*], and all we name in our hearts before You. [*Silent prayer.*] Be the strength of the weary and the great physician of soul, mind, and spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Remembering the saints that have gone before us, especially our loved ones nearest us who now rest from their labors and are with You, when our last hour comes, admit us with them into Your blessed and eternal peace and presence. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

Collect for Grace

- P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution *Please be seated. If you are communing, please come forward at the direction of the ushers.*

Distribution Hymn There Is a Green Hill Far Away

OAAR 204

- 1 There is a green hill far away
 Outside a city wall,
 Where the dear Lord was crucified,
 Who died to save us all.
- 2 We may not know, we cannot tell
 What pains He had to bear;
 But we believe it was for us
 He hung and suffered there.
- 3 He died that we might be forgiv'n
 He died to make us good,
 That we might go at last to heav'n,
 Saved by His precious blood.
- 4 There was no other good enough
 To pay the price of sin,
 He only could unlock the gate
 Of heav'n and let us in.
- 5 Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved!
 And we must love Him too
 And trust in His redeeming blood
 And try His works to do.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95, alt.

Please stand.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Song “The Power of the Cross”

by K. Getty & S. Townend

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Chorus 1 This, the pow'r of the cross.
 Christ became sin for us.

**Took the blame, bore the wrath.
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. *Chorus 1***

**Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
“Finished!” the vict'ry cry. *Chorus 1***

**Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suff'ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love!**

**Chorus 2 This, the pow'r of the cross—
Son of God slain for us.
What a life, what a cost.
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

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Silent Prayer

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Our mission is to teach, love, and connect...teach all ages about Jesus, love one another as God loves us, and connect with others in a hurting world.

**Readings for Easter Sunday, 4/5 (Sunrise): Exodus 14:10–15:1, Psalm 118:15-29,
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, John 20:1-18**

**Readings for Easter Sunday, 4/5 (9AM/11AM): Jeremiah 31:1-6, Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 16,
Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10**
