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**“Hosanna!”
that is,
“Save us!”**



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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WELCOME TO PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH! As the Lenten season continues, its final days of this Holy Week deepen our preparation to celebrate our Lord's resurrection by focusing on the events of Jesus's life from His entrance into Jerusalem until His death on the cross for us and His burial in a borrowed tomb. We thank God that He gathered you with us here as we receive God's forgiveness in Word and Sacrament. We pray that you will come again soon, even later this week, and we invite you also to join us for all of our other activities!

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The △ symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen", if an "Amen" is not already included.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

PALM SUNDAY

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166)

2026 MARCH 29

+++ **IN THE NAME OF JESUS** +++

PROCESSION OF PALMS

As weather permits and people are able, the congregation gathers outside the church and receives palms. If they are able, those inside may stand and face the entrance to the Nave.

P Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your Spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord God of our salvation, we praise and thank You for the great acts of love by which You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; mercifully assist us that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby You have given us life everlasting, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12TH chapter.

C **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

P ¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The members of the congregation raise their branches.

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City in triumph, and they acclaimed Him Son of David and King of Kings. We ask you to bless these branches and those who bear them, granting that we may ever hail Him as our Lord and King, and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; 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 Let us go forth in peace,

C in the Name of the Lord.

With raised branches, the congregation follows the pastor into the church while singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (Lutheran Service Book 442).


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.

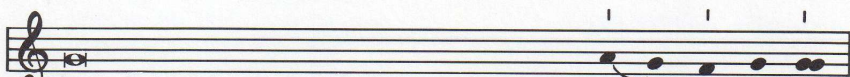
1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac -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

Refrain

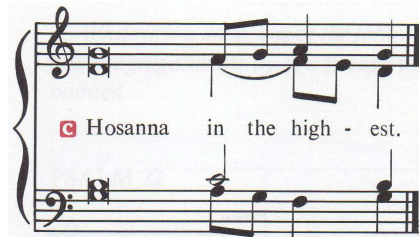


Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious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

When all have entered the church and gone to their places and the hymn is finished, the following versicle and response are chanted as indicated:



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



Hosanna in the high - est.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Salutation and Collect of the Day (& Additional Collect for Lent)	156
Old Testament (& Response): Isaiah 50:4-9a	156
Psalm: Psalm 118:19-29 (antiphon: v.26)	118
(Sing the Psalm responsively using the tone provided.)	
The congregation sings the indented and bold portions of the text.	
The <i>Gloria Patri</i> is omitted during Holy Week.)	
Epistle (& Response): Philippians 2:5-11	156
Alleluia and Verse: Lent	157
Holy Gospel (& Responses): John 12:20-43	157
Hymn of the Day: "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"	438
Sermon	John 12:12-19
Nicene Creed	159
Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory	159-160
P For ...let us pray to the Lord: C Lord, have mercy.	
(Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)	

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface, Sanctus, Prayer of Thanksgiving, (left column)	160-163
The Words of Our Lord, Proclamation of Christ, (Prayer of Remembrance,) Lord's Prayer, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei	
Distribution (& Distribution Hymns):	164
"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed"	560
"Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"	428
"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"	451
Post-Communion Canticle: "Nunc Dimittis"	165
(The <i>Gloria Patri</i> is omitted during Holy Week.)	
Post-Communion Collect & Benediction	166
Closing Hymn: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"	443

+++ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +++

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29, 2026

BEFORE THE SERVICE: As you greet and visit one another, please be sensitive to others who may wish an opportunity for silence to pray and otherwise to prepare for worship.

OFFERING BOX: Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the Narthex before or after services. Envelopes are available on the side of the Box for your use, such as if you would like your cash offering to be recorded, tracked, and receipted in a report back to you.

PEW CUSHIONS: If you would like to use a cushion either for your seat or for your seat and back, cushions for your use are available in the Usher's Closet off the north side of the Narthex.

PEW SLIPS: *Visitors*, please register your attendance both by completing a slip from rack on the back of the pews and placing them in the Offering Box in the Narthex and by signing the Guest Register at the door. *Members*, please complete a slip only if your contact information has changed or you have a new or updated prayer-list request. (The Usher tracks church attendance and communion participation.)

GROWING IN WORSHIP: Parents, please make use of the bulletins available in the Narthex for children aged 5-10, including the bulletins' activities for the whole week!

LARGER-PRINT/FLOW-THROUGH BINDERS are available in the Narthex for those who have trouble seeing the smaller-print of the hymnal, those with other special needs who cannot follow the liturgy in the hymnal or handle its weight, and those who are visiting Pilgrim who are not already familiar with liturgical services and/or our hymnal. Pilgrim's Board of Elders encourages all others to learn to participate in the Divine Service using the hymnal. If you need or otherwise want to use a flow-through and can help minimize paper and copying expenses, a PDF of the flow-through binder's contents is available in the upper-right corner of Pilgrim's homepage, www.pilgrimlc.org, to open on or to download to your electronic device. Also, Concordia Publishing House offers a larger-print edition of *Lutheran Service Book* (see item #031202 at www.cph.org and the sample of the print sizes that is available in the Church Office).

PRAYER REQUEST: If you have a special petition for the Prayers of the Church, please notify the Usher, Elder on Duty, or Pastor before the service.

IF A NEED SHOULD ARISE, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restrooms are available in the Parish Hall (non-ADA Restrooms are available in the Office Area, one with a change table), and there is a Cry Room (also with a change table) off the south side of the Narthex. Let the Usher or Elder-on-Duty know if you need assistance or supplies.

LAST WEEK: 0 students and 1 prepared teacher for Sunday School; 11 people were present in-person for Adult Bible Class, and no one participated via Jitsi; 29 people were present in-person for Divine Service (27 communed), and 2 devices streamed that Service live via YouTube; 12 people were present in-person for Midweek Lenten Vespers, and 2 devices streamed that service live via YouTube; 11 people were present in-person for Midweek Circuit Matins, and 3 devices streamed that service live via YouTube; 3 catechumens (and 2 others) connected via Jitsi for Thursday-afternoon Catechesis; and 3 catechumens were present in-person for Thursday-evening catechesis.

THANKS to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to Rev. Adler for the use of his chasubles; to Remo Gualtieri and Ben Ford, and all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; to Debbie Shockley for coordinating and serving and to her and all those who provided food for the Circuit Pastors' Meeting this past Thursday and to all those who attended the Matins service; and to Ellen Menconi for providing the Supper this past Wednesday and for her Church Office work.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Carl Gardner, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

ABOUT TODAY'S LITURGY: The most-distinctive feature of our Palm Sunday liturgy is certainly the Procession of Palms, which practice of commemorating the use of palms on the day Jesus entered Jerusalem apparently originated in the Church in Jerusalem during the fourth century. As is recommended, the Procession takes the place of our usual Catechesis, preparation of corporate Confession, Entrance Hymn, and Kyrie (the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during penitential seasons such as Lent). While all are encouraged to examine themselves and otherwise be prepared to receive the Sacrament of the Altar, such as by private Confession and individual Absolution (and see Small Catechism Section 4: "Christian Questions and Their Answers" on LSB 329-330), those are truly worthy and well prepared who have faith in Jesus's words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (Small Catechism VI:10). Finally, the

Gloria Patri is omitted during Holy Week, not to deny the glory to the Triune God but as further restraint of our rejoicing as the Church approaches the hour of God's glory on the cross of the Son.

LIFE THOUGHTS: Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death (Philippians 2:5-11). His apostle Paul commands us also to have that mind. We humble ourselves by putting the needs of dependent babies and those differently-abled above our own needs and by seeking God's forgiveness for Jesus's sake when we fail.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: The Jewish leaders were concerned about what they could gain at the believers' expense (John 12:12-19; confer John 11:48). We know that God wants all people to be saved by coming to the knowledge of His Son and do so what we can for the world to go after Him.

AS YOU DEPART, please be mindful of those who are ushered out behind you, who may have difficulty standing and waiting, and so who may need an open path to the door and to get to their cars quickly. If you stop to talk to someone in the Sanctuary, please keep the aisle as clear as possible and please delay lengthier conversations with the pastor until after he has greeted everyone. Thank you for your consideration

PALM BRANCHES: You are encouraged to take your palm branch home today in order to it keep as a reminder throughout the year both of your participation in the procession and service that began this Holy Week and of your victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil that is yours, thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 15:57; Revelation 7:9-10). Branches are customarily placed behind crosses or religious pictures. You may bring your branch back next year on or before Shrove Tuesday in order for it to be burned into ashes for Ash Wednesday.

"LOOSE-CHANGE SUNDAY": Please use the large Mite Box in the Narthex in order to contribute your loose change and more, beyond your regular offering, for LWML mites that in part fund District and National mission grants (lists of grant recipients are on the bulletin board above the Mite Box).

AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX are hardcopies of the April 2026 edition of Pilgrim's monthly newsletter, *The Pilgrimage*; the larger-print schedule of Daily Bible Reading for April and May; Pastor Galler's recent newspaper columns (including his 03/21 column titled, "Consider 'Epic Fury' with Church and State distinct"); Pilgrim's Constitution, Bylaws, and updated

Standing Rules; *Portals of Prayer* for April-June 2026; the latest Church Directory (dated 2026/01/22 on light-blue paper); issue #16 (Autumn 2025) of *Christian Culture: A printed Magazine for Lutherans* from Luther Classical College; and Pilgrim's Funeral Planning Worksheet for completing, discussing with Pastor Galler, and filing in the Church Office.

YOUTH CATECHUMENS will have their first oral and written examination today after the Divine Service in either the Conference Room/Library or the Great Room.

YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED via a brief online survey in connection with the LCMS Church Worker recruitment effort called "Set-Apart to Serve". Please respond at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey by this Tuesday, March 31.

STUDY HOURS: Pastor Galler is usually in his study Tuesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and Saturdays Noon to 3:00 p.m. Come for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* 292-293) or for any other reason. Pastor Galler is also available at other times by appointment at Pilgrim, or he can come to you (email pastor@pilgrimlc.org or text/call 903-984-4333). For emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Galler.

CATECHESIS: Due to Holy Week, neither the afternoon youth Class that meets via Jitsi starting at 4:15 p.m. nor the evening family Class that meets in-person in the Conference Room/Library starting at 7:30 p.m. will meet this week.

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY DIVINE SERVICE is this Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY DIVINE SERVICE is this Friday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Please submit reports from the First Quarter of 2026 and agenda items for the Second-Quarter Council Meeting to Recording Secretary Rita Whitley by next Sunday, April 5, so that the Meeting's Packet can be distributed and otherwise available well before April 26.

NEXT SUNDAY: 8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast; 9:00 a.m. Easter-Egg Hunt; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class ("Easter Essentials"); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service.

Readings: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians. 3:1-4; and Matthew 28:1-10.

Hymns: LSB 489, 488, 459, 458, 548, 603, 462, 457, and 461.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

“ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY”: Pilgrim’s Midweek Bible Study resumes Wednesday, April 08, at 7:00 p.m. with Amos 2:4-16. All of the prophetic books testify that everyone who believes in Jesus receives life in His Name (Acts 10:42-43). All people are welcome to participate in the Study, either in-person in the Conference Room/Library or on-line via Jitsi. For more information and for the handouts and audio and video files from past sessions, see <https://www.pilgrimc.org/bible-studies/prophets>.

“BASIC BIBLE ACCOUNTS”: On April 12 at 9:30 a.m., Pilgrim’s Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will begin considering “just the facts, ma’m” about essential Bible “stories” starting at Creation, with each session covering one lesson. The course is intended to help improve everyone’s Biblical “literacy”. If you have not regularly been attending Sunday Adult Bible Class, the start of this new course is a great opportunity for you to begin or get back into the habit!

CONGREGATIONAL MEAL: Inreach Coordinator Joy McHargue is planning a Congregational Meal on April 12 following the Divine Service before the Special Voters’ Meeting. Please use her sign-up sheet or communicate otherwise with her.

“WALKING TOGETHER”: There will be a Special Voters’ Meeting to consider Pilgrim’s options for “Walking Together” on April 12 after the Divine Service and a Congregational Meal. All are encouraged to review the following: the Special Congregational Studies (available online at www.pilgrimc.org/bible-studies/walking-together); the September 26, 2025, “Options” mailing; the November 23, 2025, “FAQ” mailing (if needed, copies of those two mailings may be requested from the Church Office); and the February 8 “Open Forum” audio or video (available on the right-hand side of any page on Pilgrim’s website). Please direct comments and questions to your Elder, any other Elder, or Pastor Galler; and also pray for God’s wisdom and guidance through this process.

ELDERS’ MEETING: Pilgrim’s next regular Elders’ Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. If you have an item of concern that the Elders should address, please share it with Pastor Galler, your Elder, or one of the other Elders before then. Elders will please come having read and being prepared

to discuss Augsburg Confession and Apology Article XVI: Civil Government/Political Order, *Concordia*, pp.39-40, 194-196.

“THE VOCATIONS OF MAN” is the theme for a Texas Lutheran Men’s Conference scheduled for April 17-19, 2026, in LaGrange, Texas. For more information and registration, visit www.stpaulaustin.org/retreat2026/.

PILGRIM’S MARY/MARTHA SOCIETY will gather next on Sunday, April 19, after the Divine Service to share lunch and to continue its study of the Women of the Bible, focusing on the Virgin Mary. All women are invited and welcome to attend!

QUARTERLY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Pilgrim’s Church Council is scheduled to have its regular Second-Quarter Meeting on Sunday, April 26, after the Divine Service. Closer to that date, the Packet with the working agenda and reports will be distributed electronically to Pilgrim’s members and will be available in hardcopy in the Narthex. Even though only Council Members can vote in Council Meetings, everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend and to join in the discussion. The Council makes some decisions and recommends other decisions to the Voters’ Assembly. Humanly speaking, our participation in the administration of Pilgrim’s secular affairs is necessary for its survival, and, spiritually speaking, our participation is fruit of our faith.

KILGORE CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Pastor Galler is scheduled to open Kilgore City Council Meeting with prayer next on Tuesday, April 28, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

KILGORE POLICE DEPARTMENT’S WEEKLY DEVOTION will be conducted by Pastor Galler next on Thursday, April 20, at 7:40 a.m. at the Kilgore Police Station.

“THE 15-2 FOLK” will gather next on Sunday, May 3, after the Divine Service, in the Great Room of the Parish Hall, for heavy snacking and Cribbage playing. All are welcome to stay for the heavy snacking, even if not staying for the Cribbage playing! If you do not know how to play Cribbage, they will teach you! You can stay also to observe the games or just to visit with those playing.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE on the committee organizing the celebration of Pilgrim’s 75th anniversary in 2027? Some volunteers are in place, but other volunteers are needed and welcome! Please pray about so serving and speak either to President Don Gibson or to Pastor Galler.