

# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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## Palm Sunday

## Sunday of the Passion

*March 29, 2026*

### **Our mission:**

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,  
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

**Welcome!** Palm Sunday gets its name from the palms that were spread before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. The people's cry, "Hosanna to the Son of David!", showed their excitement over Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah and King. Yet only days later, our Lord would hear a very different cry, "Crucify him!" Today's service takes us along that journey from joyful expectation to somber contemplation, highlighted by our responsive reading of Matthew's Passion narrative.

**Welcome guests!** We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

**Communion Note:** We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

# Divine Service, Setting Two

LSB page 167

## The Preparation

**Prelude:** “Herzlich tut mich verlangen” – J. Pachelbel

### 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

### Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 21:1-11**

P: This is 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.**

### Procession of Palms

(Starting with those in the **back pews**, worshipers please follow the Pastor up the center aisle to receive your palm at the altar and return by the side aisle. All the while we sing “All Glory, Laud, and Honor.”)

**Congregation:** 442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*(Refrain)* All glory, laud, and honor to You, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *(Refrain)*

The company of angels is praising You on high;  
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. *(Refrain)*

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before You went  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before You we present. *(Refrain)*



*All Glory, Laud and Honor (cont'd)*

To You, before Your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To You, now high exalted, our melody we raise. (*Refrain*)

As You received their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King. (*Refrain*)

**Response** P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

**Collect**

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.**



**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 50:5-10

**Psalm 118:19-29**



<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of | righteousness,\*  
that I may enter through them and  
give thanks | to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate | of the LORD;\*  
the righteous shall enter | through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have | answered me\*  
and have become my sal- | vation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders re- | jected\*  
has become the | cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's | doing;\*  
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the | LORD has made;\*  
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we pray, | O LORD!\*  
O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of  
the LORD!\*

We bless you from the house | of the  
LORD.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, and he has made his  
light to shine up- | on us.\*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
up to the horns of the | altar!

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give | thanks  
to you;\*

you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

<sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is  
good;\*

for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:11-15

**Hymn of the Day:** 441 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

**Homily**

**The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Matthew** (Matthew 26:14 - 27:66)

**Hymn:** 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (st, 1, 4)

**Prayers** After each petition of the prayer: P: Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

**Prayer Request List** (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

***Those in need of comfort:***

Beckerman family	comfort at the death of Wendy	Dunbar
Reinbacher family	comfort at the death of Pastor Otto	Klesat

***For those with health concerns:***

Katherine Ecclesten	Eric Teschke	Bill Hotaling	Marge Keen	Doug
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Penny	Claire
Don Hammond	Sue Bridenbough	Jeff Corelli	Zane	Beverly
Sandy Hammond	Lorraine Van Hise	Pat Dietz	Grant	Sid
Judy Dito	John Tarlo	Asta Lynch	Noah	Jan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	Rose	Carlie
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Tony Shiron	Susan	Brennan
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Siggy Haenisch		

***For those with cancer:***

Isla Brummel	Robert Miller	Gerry Campbell	Howard Zahn	Trudy
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Joe Campbell	Rich Knechel	Lance
Kim McCollough	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Mary Anne	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Arlene Bodholt	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Jane Forder	Dawn
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Lynn J.	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Rosalie Reinbacher	Carol Storr	Dana	Dora
Tom Sullivan	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	Frank
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller	Dave Elison	Doris	

***For those serving in the armed forces and their families:***

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Mike Bahney	Christopher Ryan Callahan

***For those with needs around the world:***

Persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ	For protection, strength, comfort, spread of Gospel
Government officials and people of our nation	For peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Armed forces, especially those deployed	Safety and protection as they carry out their duties
Those in need of employment	For provision of jobs
Conflicts throughout the world	For wisdom, guidance, peace, and forgiveness
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	For health, safety, and provision

***For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:***

For staff and families for '25-'26 school year

**Birthdays:**

Brittany Jamison March 30

**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory**

**Instrumental Offertory:** "Jesu meine Freude" – J.S. Bach

***The Service of the Sacrament***

**Order of Holy Communion** (page 177)

P: The Lord be with you.	<b>C: And also with you.</b>
P: Lift up your hearts.	<b>C: We lift them to the Lord.</b>
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	<b>C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.</b>
P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:	
<b>C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:</b>	
<b>Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</b>	
<b>Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</b>	

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven...**

P: Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

<b>C: Agnus Dei</b>	<b>Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.</b>
	<b>Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.</b>
	<b>Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.</b>



Distribution Hymn: 547 The Lamb

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

**Benediction** (page 183)

**Closing Hymn:** 527 O Savior, Precious Savior

**Postlude:** “Herzlich tut mit verlangen” – J. G. Walther





**Announcements – Week of March 29, 2026**  
**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week**  
**\*MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00\***

**Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study**

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are Joe Scheblein (Communion Assistant), Fred Grube (Reader), Thomas Cresap (acolyte), Dave deDufour and Stephen Behnfeldt (Ushers), Judy Grube (Communion and coffee set-up), Lesley deDufour (Communion and coffee clean-up and Live-streaming)

**Today’s service will be live streamed** at this link [https://youtube.com/live/jbpGu\\_IU1Hg](https://youtube.com/live/jbpGu_IU1Hg) If you miss the service live, watch it on YouTube! The services are also posted to the [church’s website](#).

**Sunday 8:15 Bible Study: An Overview of Holy Week.** This Sunday we'll examine the day-to-day events of Holy Week, a busy week of ministry for our Lord Jesus that included the Palm Sunday parade, cleansing of the temple, debates with religious leaders, the Last Supper, and the crucifixion. Join us!

**Men’s, Women’s, Senior’s, Youth and Family Ministry**

**Weekly Schedule:**

TODAY (3/29)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group
WEDNESDAY (4/1)	7:00a-7:00p Prayer Vigil in Sanctuary
THURSDAY (4/2)	9:45/11:40a Nursery School Chapel; 7:30p Maundy Thursday Service
FRIDAY (4/3)	12:00p Good Friday Service @ Bethany, Ewing; 7:30p Good Friday Service
SATURDAY (4/4)	9:30a Nursery School Easter Egg Hunt
SUNDAY (4/5)	8:00 & 10:30a Easter Services; 9:00a Easter Breakfast; 10:00a Easter Egg Hunt

**MARCH - NOAH.** I am very excited to announce our March event. We will experience “CHAPEL TIME” with Pastor Jon and our Nursery School at 11:00AM on Thursday, March 26, in the Sanctuary. Following, we will have Pizza and fun in the fellowship hall. You will not want to miss this blessed opportunity to experience how St. Peter is bringing Jesus’ love to our children. Please sign up on the bulletin board, or let the Yosts, the Klesats, or Bill Kianka know you are coming.

**Prayer Vigil: Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.** On Wednesday of Holy Week, St. Peter will be holding a prayer vigil from 7am-7pm in the church sanctuary. Shifts are 1 hour in length, but any commitment of time is welcome. You may also participate at home or work if you're unable to make it to church. More than one person may sign up for the same time slot. Suggested petitions, Scripture readings for meditation, and other prayer resources will be provided. Our hope is to engage as many of us as possible in lifting up the needs of our congregation, community, and world to the Lord in prayer. "Watch and pray!" (Mark 14:38)

**Easter Egg Hunts.** Yes, it’s that time of year again! We will be holding two Easter Egg Hunts again this year, one on Sat, April 4 at 9:30 for our Nursery School families, and one on Easter Sunday morning at

10. There is a sign-up sheet to be a ‘hider’ at one or both on the bulletin board – we could use your help for these fun events. Last minute eggs can be returned by the Good Friday service. Thanks for your help!

**Spring Clean-up Day - Saturday April 11th 8:30am till Noon**. Bring your shovels, rakes, clippers, gloves, wheelbarrows and cleaning supplies to help spruce up the property. We will be working inside and outside the building. If you can't make it on Saturday, a task list will be posted on the bulletin board for anyone who wants to work during the week.

**Calling all golfers!** LCMS NJ District presents its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mission Classic Golf Outing, taking place on Thursday, May 7. It will benefit the NJ District Outreach Missions, for which nearly \$250,000 has been raised since the Missions Classic began. There are many opportunities to participate or sponsor - see the brochure on the narthex table for details. Come for a fun day! Registration can be mailed in, with payment due by the day of the event.

**The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry**. Join us in making special blankets to bless those in need of comfort or in celebration of a life event! Please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

**Prayer Chain**. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

### **Service and Other**

**Faithfulness Report:** Attendance: Midweek: 38 / 7 online (combined offering both services)  
3/22: 67 / 7 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$5678  
Debt relief: \$50 Flowers \$25

**Food Pantry**. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **April's** collection is **Pasta** – any variety of pasta, sauce, mac and cheese, etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

### **Other Important web links:**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)  
NJ District LCMS [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)

LCMS World Relief and Human Care  
[lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)  
The “Lutheran Hour” Broadcast [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

### **Lenten/Easter Schedule at St. Peter:**

Midweek Lenten Services	Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Feb 18 – Mar 25
Lenten Soup Suppers	Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Feb 25 – Mar 25
Palm Sunday Service	Sunday, March 29, 9:30 AM
Prayer Vigil	Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM
Good Friday Service at Bethany	Friday, April 3, 12:00 PM
Good Friday Service	Friday, April 3, 7:30 PM
Nursery School Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 4, 9:30 AM
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, April 5, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, April 5, 9:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, April 5, 10:00 AM



## PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4–9a

- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> 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.
- <sup>8</sup> 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.
- <sup>9a</sup> Behold, the Lord God helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

### Epistle: Philippians 2:5–11

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:1–27:66

. . . <sup>27:38</sup>Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup>So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup>"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and

we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup>And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup>Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup>And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup>And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

<sup>51</sup>And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, <sup>53</sup>and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

<sup>55</sup>There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, <sup>56</sup>among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup>Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup>and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' <sup>64</sup>Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." <sup>66</sup>So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.