

seeking:

*Where are
you headed?*



Palm Sunday

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

March 29, 2026

Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We understand that being truly welcoming involves actively working against racism, heteronormativity, sexism, transphobia, ageism, ableism, classism, and other forces that seek to divide and oppress. We commit to continuing to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
-Romans 15:7

Orientation to the Service

This bulletin will guide you through the entire service. Starting on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

Hymns (songs) are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

Green-topped Welcome Cards are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

Children are welcome in worship! God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Restrooms can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. An all-gender, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the door to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026 | 9:30 AM

Imagine you are in Jerusalem when Jesus enters on a donkey. Within the chaos and commotion of that scene, where are you and which way will you go? Will you follow Jesus all the way to the cross? Jesus' willing surrender to his arrest should always catch us off-guard. As dismayed as the disciples, we ask, "Jesus, are you really headed this way, straight to your death?" Many of our weekly questions throughout the season so far have helped us prepare spiritually for Holy Week. Now we examine if our beliefs have changed our behaviors. Has your path changed? In the midst of opposing forces, which way will you go?

PRELUDE

The congregation gathers in Fellowship Hall to begin our worship.

GATHERING

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest!

佇主的名來的得著謳啱!

佇至高的和散那!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest!

佇主的名來的得著謳啱!

佇至高的和散那!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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: 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."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS & SIGNS

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 sovereign by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these signs and 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.

PROCESSION

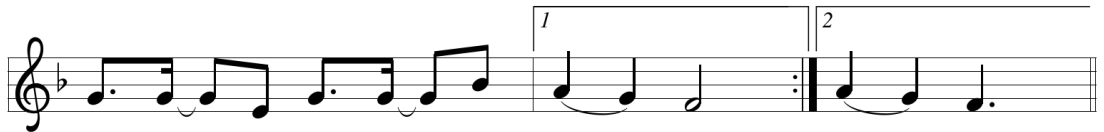
Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Pave the Way with Branches | ACS 928



*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.

**Additional verses ad lib.:*
Release for the captives . . .
Hope for the downtrod . . .
Land for the landless . . .
Debts are forgiven . . .

OPENING LITANY

Where is Jesus going? Isn't he from Nazareth? Can anything good come from Nazareth? Is he headed to Jerusalem? Do you think Jerusalem is safe? Does he know that Pilate is here?

Where is he going?

Does he know the city is dangerous? Does he see the Pharisees watching? Is this the one we've been waiting for? Could this be the Messiah?

Where is he going?

The crowds are singing, "Hosanna!" Should I lay down my cloak? Is this the beginning of the end? Should we follow? Should we watch? Should we sing, "Hosanna?" Stay awake! He's on the move.

Where is he going?

Listen.

Where is he going?

Watch.

Where is he going?

Stay close.

Where is he going?

Sing, "Hosanna."

Hosanna! Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING, AND SONG.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Allison Bengfort

Elementary-aged children (grades K-5) are invited to attend The Roots Children's Church, led by trained St. Andrew volunteers and located in the Children's Library downstairs. Parents are welcome to observe. The children will return to worship in time to receive communion.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together.

Holy God, sometimes it's hard to hear you over the hosannas. Sometimes it's hard to hear you over the noise of city streets. Sometimes it's hard to hear you over our racing thoughts, our mental to-do lists, or our desire to fit in. Sometimes it is hard to hear you in this noisy world. So just as you stopped traffic in Jerusalem, stop traffic here. Pause the rush. Open the gates. Dwell among us, until your Word is all we can hear. We are listening. We are laying down our cloaks. Amen.

POEM

“Where Are You Headed?” by Rev. Sarah Speed

We are trains on a track,
moving through life at warp speed.
*Please keep all arms and legs
inside the moving vehicle
at all times.*

The years pass like a flipbook,
faster than we can absorb,
but the train does not stop.

We press our faces to the windows
to try and get a good view
and we ask each other,
Where are you headed?
And there on the train
we decide—

we want to head toward
the promised day.
We want to head toward crowded tables
and long, healthy lives.
We want to move in the direction of joyful children,
and hopeful communities.
We want to move closer to God
with every mile of track,
and that does not happen by accident.

So it's time to ask,
*Where are you headed,
and who's driving that train?*

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung twice

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes

in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes

in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers."

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?" ¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pr. Allison Bengfort

The congregation may stand.



"Ho - san - na!" Loud ho - san - nas re - soun - ded through
 The Pha - ri - sees a - long the way took no - tice of
 Be bold and be cou - ra - geous tell truths that must



the streets. "All glo - ry__ in the high - est
 the crowd. Re - buk - ing__ Je - sus, they pro - claimed
 be told. The world may try to si - lence you



to him__ who comes in peace!" The beau - ti - ful
 this gath - ered mob too loud. But__ some truths can -
 but Christ helps us be bold. In__ voi - ces and



ca - co pha - ny of__ chil - dren's laughs and songs
 not be con - tained They spill out from the earth
 in bo__ dies in__ art for pro - test made.



ac - com - pan - ied the grand par - ade
 "No, ev - en__ if you si - lence them
 Our truths take__ ma - ny shapes and forms



all through the gath - ered throng.
 the stones will still be heard."
 A cho - rus of our faith.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.).
Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you prefer not to physically touch others.*

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Siblings in Christ, we believe in a God who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives. As we offer our gifts today, we remember God's sustaining presence. I invite you to lift up an offering today as a sign of hope and an act of compassion that reflects the love of Christ.

*Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online by scanning the QR code to the right.
Thank you for your generosity!*



OFFERING

*Hosanna Processional, Joseph M. Martin
Sanctuary Choir, directed by John Gladen*

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the wine (red chalice) or the grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of bread only. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

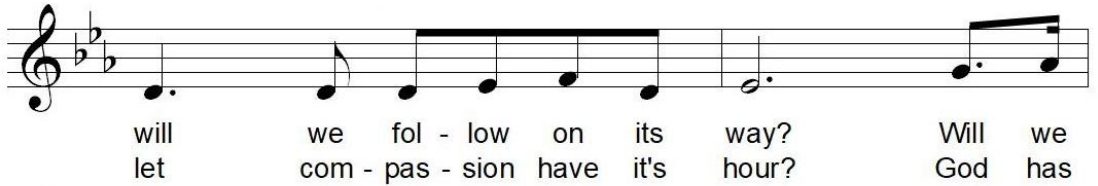
COMMUNION SONG

Be known to us Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread. Ho -
 - sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na. Be known to us Lord
 Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread. Ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho -
 - sa - - - na, ho - sa - na

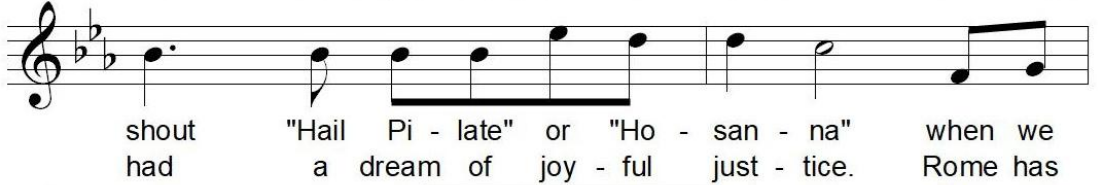
DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Two Processions

Two pro - ces - sions en - ter - ing Je - ru - sa - lem, two op -
 ces - sions en - ter - ing Je - ru - sa - lem, power of
 pos - ing king - doms on dis - play. Which of
 love a - gainst the love of power. Will we
 these pro - ces - sions are we part of? Which one
 choose the path of do - mi - na - tion? Will we



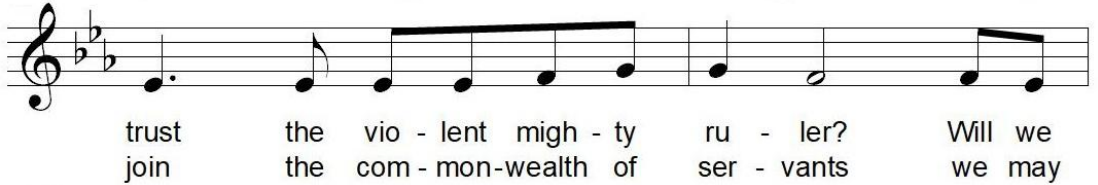
will we fol - low on its way? Will we
let com - pas - sion have it's hour? God has



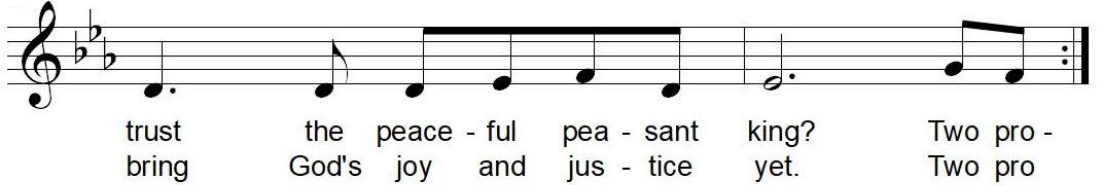
shout had "Hail Pi - late" or "Ho - san - na" when we
had a dream of joy - ful just - tice. Rome has



have spun a choice whose praise to sing? Will we
spun a night - mare of ne - glect. If we



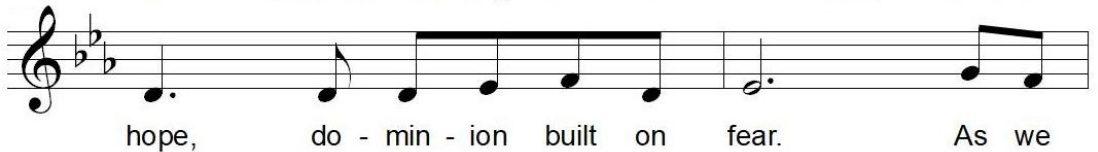
trust the vio - lent migh - ty ru - ler? Will we
join the com - mon - wealth of ser - vants we may



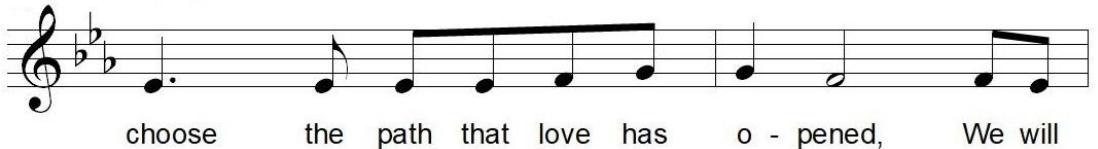
trust bring the peace - ful pea - sant king? Two pro -
God's joy and jus - tice yet. Two pro



ces - sions en - ter - ing Je - ru - sa lem, Realm of



hope, do - min - ion built on fear. As we



choose the path that love has o - pened, We will

see the realm of hope draw near.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Ride On, Ride On

Ride on, ride on, the
 Ride on, ride, on, your
 Ride on, ride on, God's

time _____ is right: the road - side
 cri - tics wait, in - trigue and
 love _____ de - mands. Jus - tice and

crowds scream with de - light; Palm bran - ches
 ru - mor cir - cu - late; New lies a -
 peace lie in your hands. E - vil and

mark the pil - grim way where beg - gars
 bound in word and jest, and trust - gars
 an - gel's voi - ces rhyme: this is be -
 the

squat and child - ren play.
 comes a sus - pect guest.
 man and this the time.

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD.

BLESSING

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, † who is always seeking us.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor | ELW 344, vs. 1, 3 & 5

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you in your seeking.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

Worship, with Stripping of the Altar, 7:00 pm

April 3 – Good Friday

Good Friday Tenebrae, 8:00 pm

April 5 – Easter Sunday

Worship with Children's Church, 9:30 am

Serving Today in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: Allison Katsuftrakis
Altar Guild: Noelle Mehlhorn
Children's Church: Cindy Stadel
Communion Assistant:
Lector: Tom Mehlhorn
Musician: Karl Gustafson

Nursery Assistant:
Tech Team: Janet Vorvick, Chase Isaacson
Ushers:
Welcome Team: Patty Jones,
Donna McAlpine
Worship Coordinator: Pat Christiansen
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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