A wooden cross is positioned on the right side of the image, with several palm fronds scattered around it. The background is a light, textured surface with a subtle purple and green wash. The text 'PALM SUNDAY' is centered in the middle of the image.

PALM SUNDAY

*Hosanna! Blessed is
the one who comes
in the name of the
Lord!*

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
MARCH 29, 2026
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir

11:00 am - First Sunday of Each Month

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: kfisher@stmarkburg.com

Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
MARCH 29, 2026
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION**



INTRODUCTION TO TODAY

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John Donne, poet, died 1631

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

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

Saturday, April 4, 2026

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.

*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

PRELUDE MUSIC

The Holy City

Ben Yost, Solo

M. Maybrick

*GATHERING

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

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.

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

P 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace,

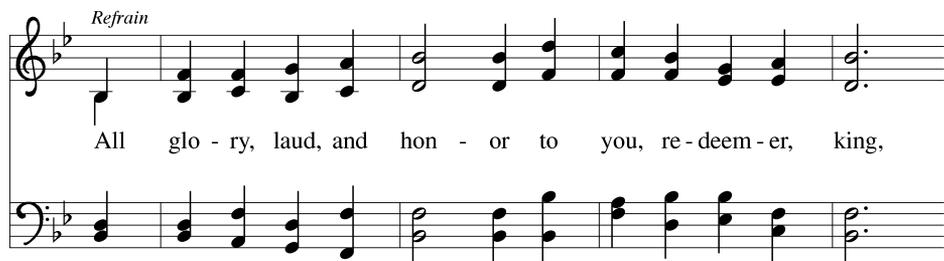
C **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

***PROCESSION**

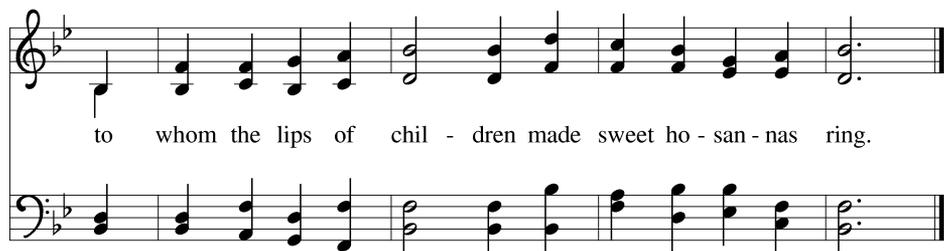
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

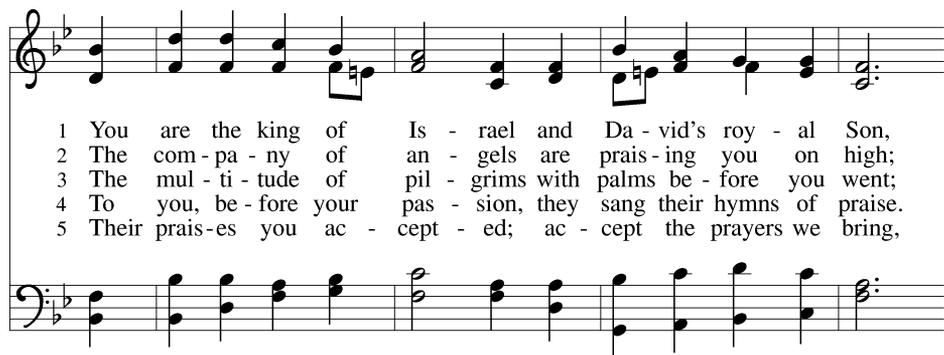
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

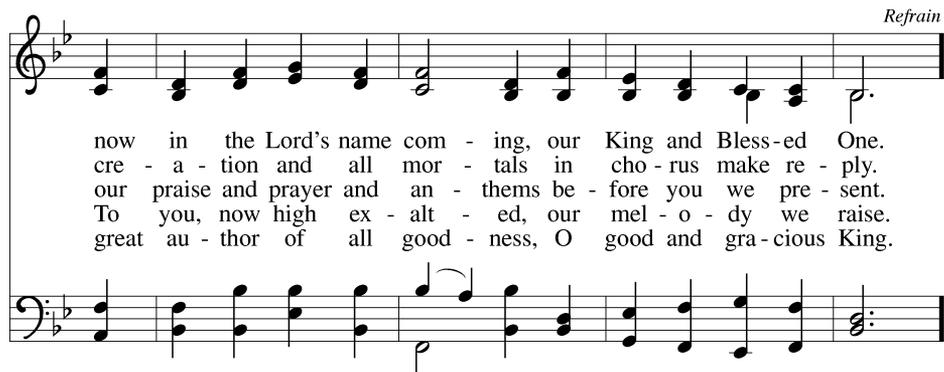


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are 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 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals 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.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

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

ANTHEM

On That Day When He Rode Into Jerusalem

M.K. Beall

P As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

P Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: 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.

R A reading from Isaiah.

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 wakens — wakens 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.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

*(Please read the Psalm responsively—Pulpit side the regular print;
lectern side the **bold print**.)*

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street, they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

SECOND LESSON: 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.

R A reading from Philippians.

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.

R Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***VERSE**

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!



- 1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! Hear all the tribes ho - san - na cry;
- 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! The wing-ed squad-rons of the sky
- 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! Your last and fiere - est strife is nigh.
- 5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die,



O Sav - ior meek, your road pur - sue, with palms and scat-tered gar-ments strewed.
O Christ, your tri-umphs now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con-quired sin.
look down with sad and won-d'ring eyes to see the ap-proach-ing sac - ri - fice.
The Fa - ther on his sap-phire throne a - waits his own a - noint - ed Son.
bow your meek head to mor - tal pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.

Music: ST. DROSTANI, John Bacchus Dykes, 1823–1876

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 26:1–27:66

PARTICIPANTS:

Narrator

Jesus

Judas

Peter

Witness

High Priest

Servant

Pilate

People

Terri Hopkins

Kevin Amos

Sean Gimbel

Dave Hopkins

Karen Fisher

Jonas Gimbel

Barb Yost

Matt Yost

Choir and Others

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A Hear us O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C Amen.

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Excerpt from "Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit" from
The Seven Last Words of Christ

F.J. Haydn

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

JUST AS I AM ***VERSE 6***

Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

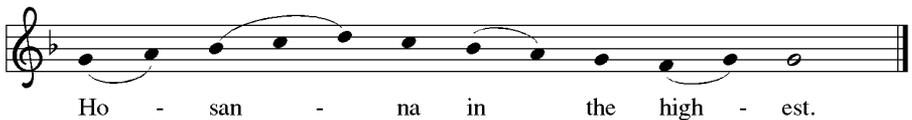
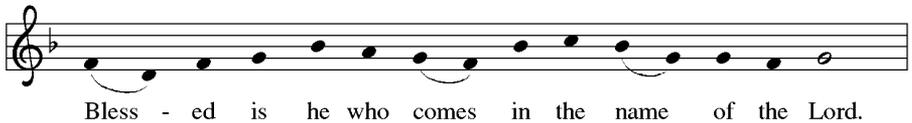
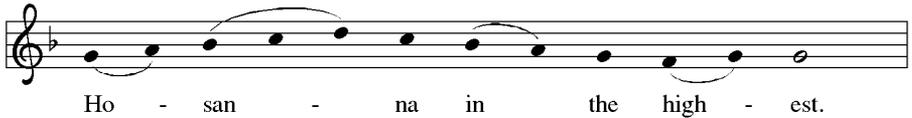
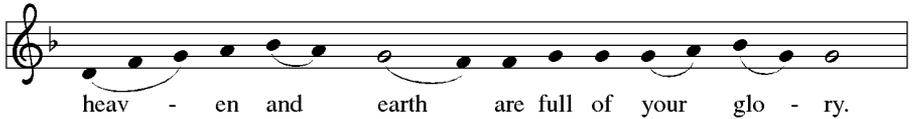
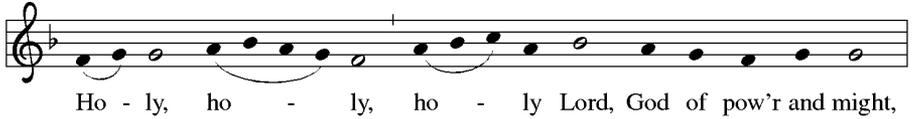
*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts
C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

P 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



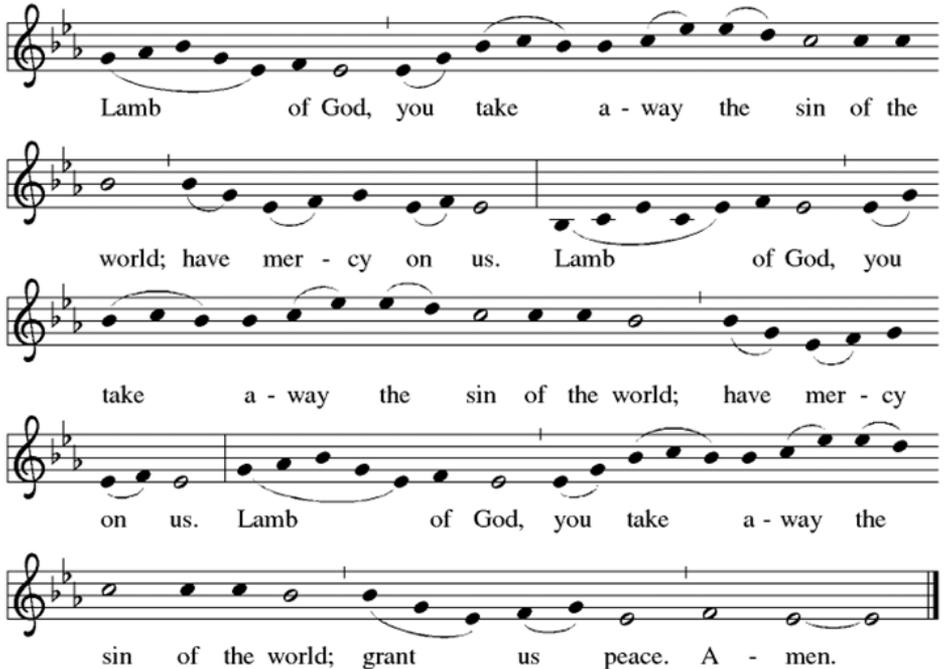
*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*THE 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.

*P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready!



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION

Congregation may be seated. Please follow the directions of the ushers for the distribution of Communion.

All baptized, communing Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament.

We have gluten free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine.

Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.

P The body of Christ given for you.

C Amen.

A The blood of Christ shed for you.

C Amen.

Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

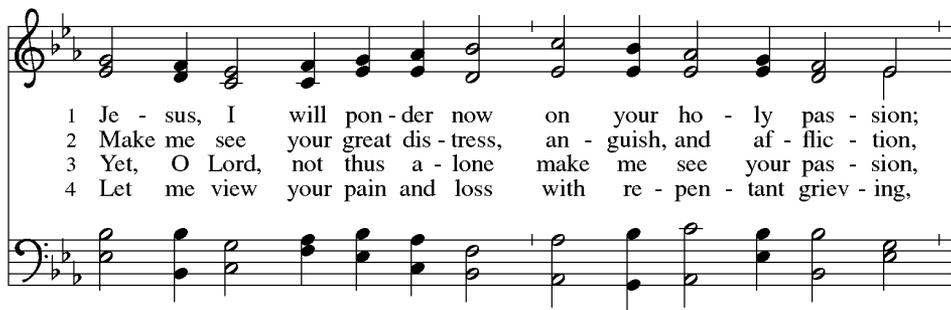
5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

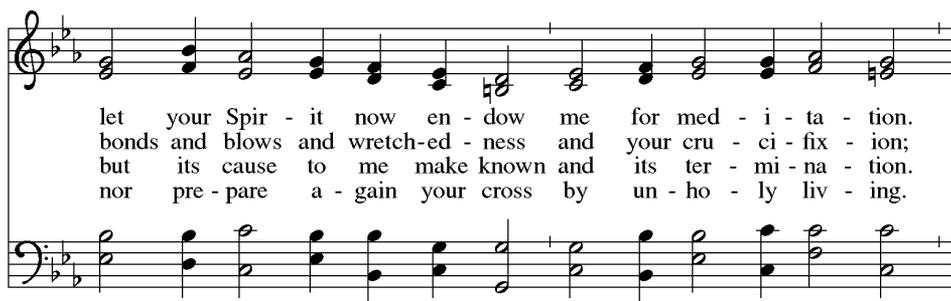
7 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

-COMMUNION-

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



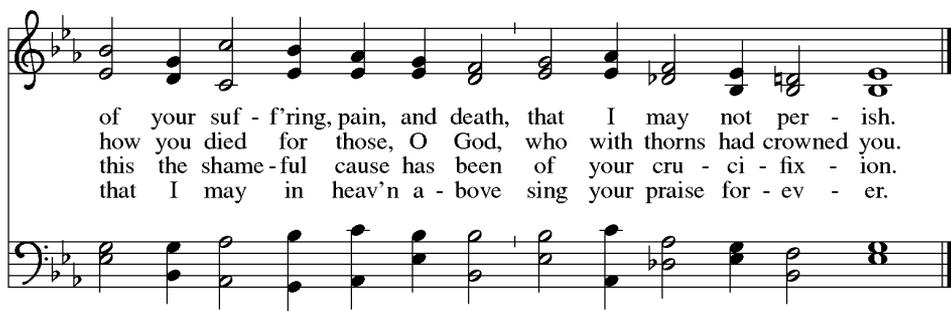
1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

***P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth-se-m - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;

your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

J. Pachelbel



In memory of Mary Dobbs by Frankie Hensel.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers: Scott Kreiger, Deb Kreiger

Assisting Minister: Sean Gimbel

Lay Reader: Matt Yost

Acolyte: Caroline Stull

Altar Guild: Connie Kuntz, Joan Murphy,
Barb Lehman

Council Money Duty: Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, March 29

8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
12:00 pm

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
PALM SUNDAY**
Worship Service-Communion
Sunday Church School
Children's SS and Choir
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, March 30

2:45 pm
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons
German Group

Tuesday, March 31

Wednesday, April 1

6:00 pm
7:00 pm

Bell Choir
Adult Choir

Thursday, April 2

12:00 Noon
5:30 pm
6:15 pm
6:30 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Maundy Thursday Service
Seder Meal with Communion
Maundy Thursday Svc.—Sanctuary
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, April 3

11:00 am

7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY
Good Friday Prayer Walk

Good Friday Worship Service

Saturday, April 4

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, April 5

6:30 pm
7:15 pm
8:30 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm

**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
EASTER DAY**
Sunrise Service
Pot Luck Easter Breakfast
Worship Service-Communion
Worship Service-Communion
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

APRIL 5 - EASTER DAY

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

USHER RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

If you are an usher or would like to be an usher, please pick up a copy of the responsibilities and procedures located on the table in the Narthex. Please direct questions to Shannon Weaver at 717-691-1618.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

On **Thursday, April 2**, there will be a Noon service of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar in the Sanctuary. Then, Thursday evening, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a Seder Meal *with Communion* starting at **5:30 PM**. This is a Christian version of the Passover Meal that Jewish families celebrate annually but remembering the Last Supper that Jesus shared with the first disciples as well. At **6:15 PM**, we will move to the sanctuary for a brief time of worship and the stripping of the altar. Sign-up sheets for the meal are located on the bulletin board, entrances to the church, or call the Church Office. Please contact Marlin Brown if you have any questions.

LAWN TRACTOR

Property has found a lawn tractor to cut grass and also has an attachment to blow snow. The cost for the tractor with snow blower attachment is **\$7,410** that will hopefully arrive by the end of April.

To date, we have collected \$4,067.00 toward the cost of the tractor which leaves us with a current balance of \$3,343.00.

If you would like to help pay for the tractor, please use one of the “Special Offering” lines on your offering envelope and mark it “mower.”

We will need to pay for the tractor when it is delivered so any outstanding balance will need to be funded by a line of credit loan from the bank.

SUMMER CAMP

Brochures for Summer Camp at either Camp Nawakwa or Camp Kirchenwald are available at the church office, or you can contact our camp person, Connie Kuntz, at 717-503-5244. You can also register or find additional information online at www.lutherancamping.org.

Our congregation will provide half the basic camp fee, and scholarship money is available if needed. Both camps will again hold **OPEN HOUSE** on **April 12 from 2:00 PM-4:30 PM**. Remember to get the camp person

discount and if you register with your full payment before April 4, you are eligible for the full payment discount. The congregation will be billed later for half the basic fee. **Remember there are camps available for all ages with family camps and elder camp.**

The Bible study theme this year is *Wear Love*. The theme verse is: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.” Colossians 3:12.

KEN SHUR COMING OUT OF RETIREMENT TO RUN ONE MORE BOSTON MARATHON

Ken Shur just couldn’t stay away from running the Boston Marathon— one—more--time!

He has put his sneakers back on and is training to run in his 12th Boston Marathon on **Monday, April 20, 2026**, on behalf of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

As he has done in previous years, Ken would like to honor cancer survivors, those fighting cancer, and those who lost the battle by wearing the names of those individuals on his t-shirt. Let’s provide Ken with as many names as possible to adorn his shirt on his final (we will see) Boston Marathon run. It means so much to him and Donna. Please submit the names of cancer survivors, those fighting cancer, or those who lost the battle to Karen Fisher in the church office **no later than Wednesday, April 1.** If you would like to sponsor him, please contact Ken at 717-462-1549.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK

Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite the community to the Good Friday Prayer Walk. It will be held on **Friday, April 3 from 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM.** Led by local pastors, prayer walkers will start at one of the prayer sites and then cover the surrounding area in prayer. Participants are invited to join together at Noon at Mechanicsburg First Church of God for closing prayer and worship. Pastor Marleen will lead the walk from St. Mark at 11:00 AM. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Easter EGG HUNT!

Join us for a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt!

117 West Keller Street,
Mechanicsburg, PA

Saturday, April 11, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.

Eggs, Treats & Prizes! All are welcome!



April 2	Maundy Thursday Svc. - Noon
April 2	Maundy Thursday Seder Meal - 5:30 PM
April 2	Maundy Thursday Svc. - 6:15 PM
April 3	Good Friday Prayer Walk - 11:00 AM
April 3	Good Friday Worship Svc. - 7:00 PM
April 5	Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM
April 5	Potluck Easter Breakfast - 7:15 AM
April 5	Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt
April 12	Holy Humor Sunday
April 20	Ken Shur-Boston Marathon
April 23	Ladies & Friends Night Out 6:30 pm—Red Lobster
May 9	Community Yard Sale
May 16	Spreading of tan bark
August 3-7	St. Mark Day Camp
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
October (TBA)	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk

Palm Sunday Word Search

L L R Y A F N O J E K P C L K
G B A P P L S H S E K C S J O
P R A Y E R N R L C S U H L L
Y F K G B H O Y O O J U L E B
N I S O O K R F D L L Y S P P
P T U J T D E M J N G I Y S W
N A N G N G F E A S T L M O C
B S D T E F R D W S O A G G U
R B A L L U P B I Y R G N I C
Y W Y G S D M D A K L I E K A
G F O A H O E F H L S O P R R
F A L M Y N A I T S I R H C M
I E H U L K E B E A S T E R D
M Y M S G E I L H C A N Y E W
S S I G H Y B H P U E K U D Y

BLESSING

GOSPEL

LENT

CHRISTIAN

HOLY WEEK

LUKE

DONKEY

JERUSALEM

MARK

EASTER

JESUS

PRAYER

FEAST

JOHN

SUNDAY



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

HIS BLOOD BE ON US

Today we begin Holy Week, a week filled with paradoxes, reversals, and ironic twists. The story moves inevitably toward death, yet it brings the promise of life. Jesus appears to be the victim, but he chooses this path, humbling himself, confident that God will exalt him in victory. Pilate embodies the full might of the Roman Empire but is powerless before the crowd's demands. The chief priests and elders, perhaps more than anyone else, should recognize the long-hoped-for Messiah, but their jealousy prevents this.

Perhaps the greatest irony in today's Passion reading is found in the crowd's exclamation, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). These words have been misused to slander the Jewish people, claiming they bear the guilt of Christ's blood. Superficially, that is what the crowd means: Pilate refuses responsibility, so the people take it upon themselves. Theologically, though, the crowd speaks a universal truth. Far from justifying anti-Jewish scapegoating, these words apply to all humanity. Somehow we are all implicated in the death of Jesus. Our rebellion, our sin, places him on the cross.

Paradoxically, however, the crowd's words also reveal a deeper truth. The blood of Christ does not mark with condemnation; it promises forgiveness. It does not stain with guilt; it washes sin away. By accepting suffering and death at the hands of sinners, Jesus wins the victory of love. His blood be on us, indeed! Just as we all share guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus, so too are we all granted mercy by his self-giving death. United in baptism to his death and resurrection, receiving his body and blood in communion, we receive grace, freedom, and life.

In the days to come, do not look at these contradictions as puzzles to be solved. They are mysteries beyond full understanding. But as you contemplate the events of Holy Week, you will discover new depths of God's love for you. May his blood be upon us all, with mercy and salvation.