

Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster



Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

Saturday of the Passion
March 28, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings

The Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11
(Standing)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“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.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The 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!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Blessing of the Palms

Lord Jesus Christ, as you took possession of your city on a beast of burden so now enter our hearts as we hear and receive your Word. Bless these palm branches. May they remind us of your glorious entry and your faithful willingness to suffer and die for us. Inspire us to discern you in your coming and to hail you as our King. You are the Lord forevermore. **Amen.**

The Distribution of the Palms

The Ushers shall distribute the Palms

as we prepare to welcome Christ once again into our lives.

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 fierc - 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-quer'd 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!

The Processional

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna to the son of David!

The Processional Hymn

ELW 344

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

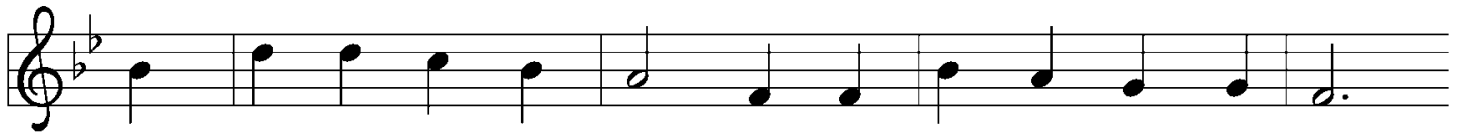
Refrain



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.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

The Passion According to Matthew
Matthew 27:11-54
Glory to you O Lord.

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

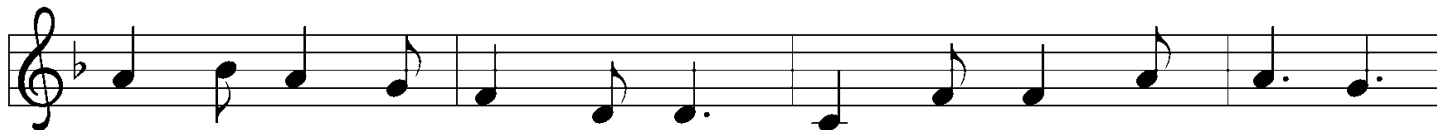
From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ



The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

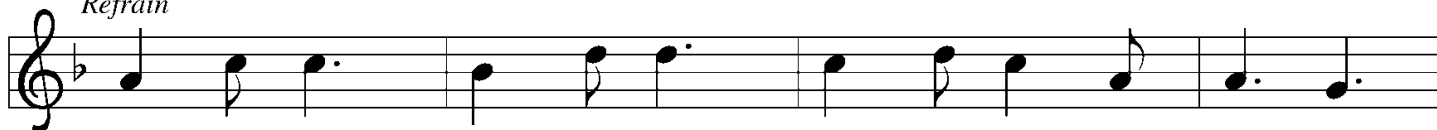


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

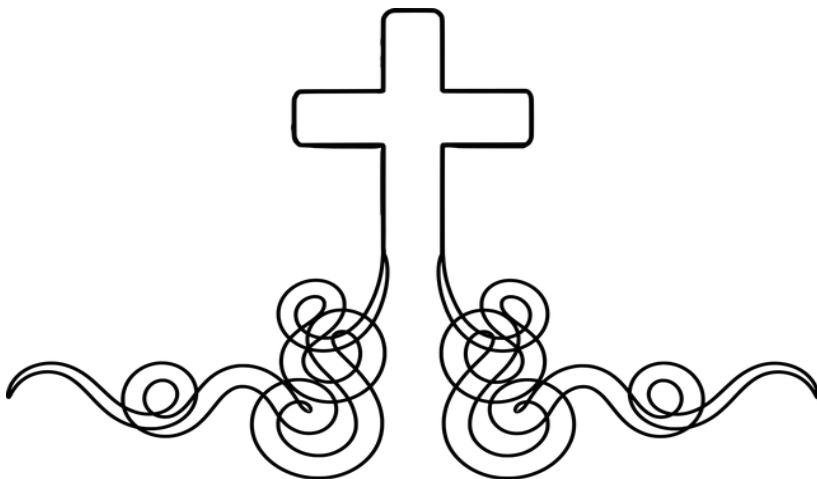


till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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Prayers of Intercession

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

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally (here local bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers may be named). Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day (especially Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Eugene, Drue, Darrion, Rob & Lauren, Joe & Shelly, Susan Loniewski, the Carpenter Family, Vicky and her family, Susan Thassler, Jessica Riker, Andrea, and the family and friends of Henrietta Rukowski). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for (*Hans Nielsen Hauge and*) all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

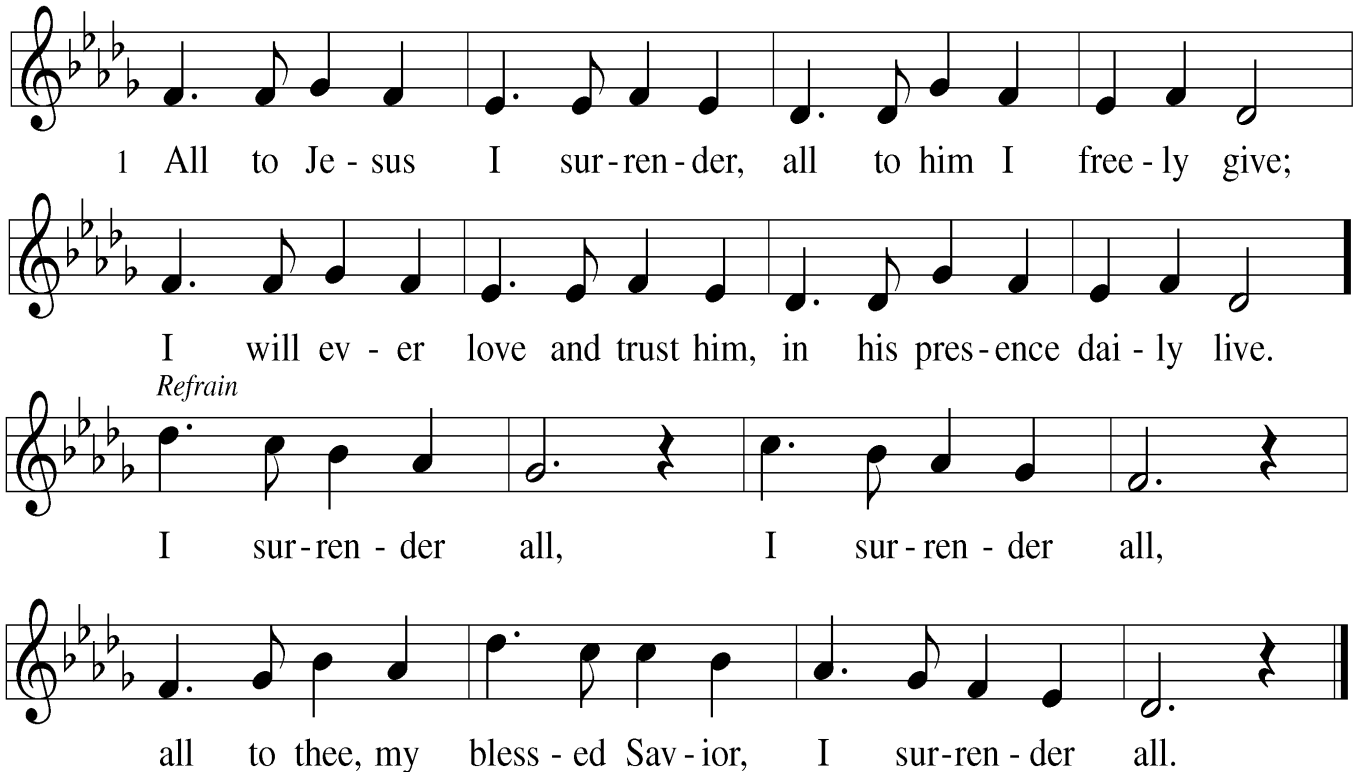
**Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. Amen.**

The Peace

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us share the peace of the Lord.

The Offering

The Offertory Hymn



1 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;
I will ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.

Refrain
I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all,
all to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

Text: Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1855–1939

Music: SURRENDER, Winfield S. Weeden, 1847–1908 Reprinted with permission under One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

The Offertory Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

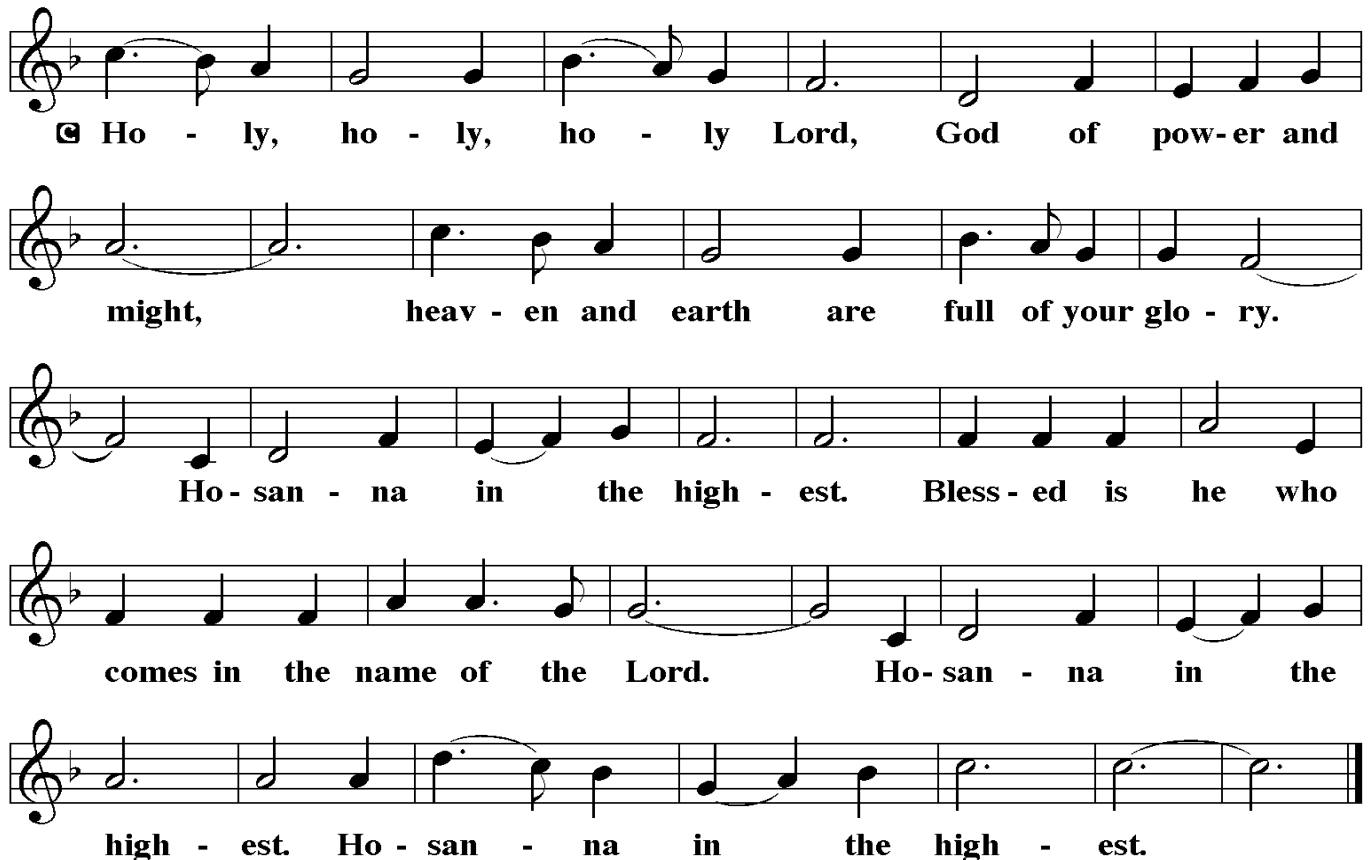
The Great Thanksgiving

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.

The Preface

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Institution

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 Invitation

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

The Distribution of the Bread & Wine

The Blessing

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

The Lord’s Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

The Sending Prayer

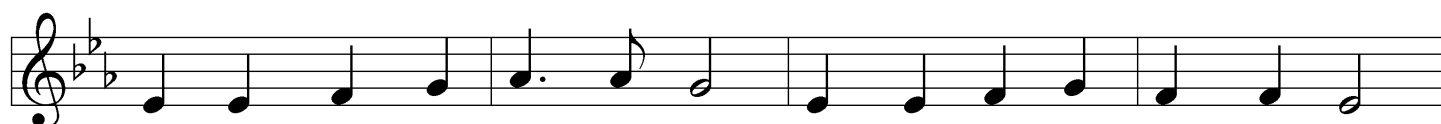
God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Sending Hymn

LBW 109

Go To Dark Gethsemane (vs 1-3)



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - 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,



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.



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.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

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The Sending

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You for Worship Today!

If you would like a **pastoral visit** for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell @ (716) 848-9683.

Office Hours:

St John's Lancaster M, W, Th 10am-3pm.
St John's Elma Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

Offering

3/22/2026
\$ 2226.00

Thrivent clients with membership:

Don't forget to direct 2025 Choice Dollars® by March 31 at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

QR Code for Offering

Using your camera app you can scan the QR code to go to **St. John's donation page** where you can make a one-time or recurring **offering!** Thank you for giving!



Altar Flower Arrangements:

as of **January 1, 2026**, flower arrangements are \$40 (for 2).

Available Flower Dates: Apr 5, 12, 19, 26

Altar Guild: RaeAnn Jakubowski & Corinne Rudz

Deacon: Kathy Snyder

Ushers: Rich Rice & Rick Tomaszewski

*The Palms for this year's services have been given
by Lucy Krupa in memory of her husband Tony Krupa.*

We lift up: Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Eugene, Drue, Darrion, Rob & Lauren, Joe & Shelly, Susan Loniewski, the Carpenter Family, Vicky and her family, Susan Thassler, Jessica Riker, Andrea, and the family and friends of Henrietta Rukowski

New Choir Practice Time

Choir will now practice on Sundays 11:05-11:20am.

All are welcome to join!

The Women's Lunch Group will meet at 11:30am on Wed, April 8 at **St John's Lancaster**. Pizza and salad will be served and there will be a free will offering. The reason for the **change in venue** is to reflect on past luncheon meetings and plan for the future. Please bring your comments and ideas for discussion. Sign up by April 5. Hope to see you there!

BOOK CLUB

Please join us at the Conference Table downstairs in the Chapel Hall at St. John's Lancaster (using the ramp entrance) on Wednesday, April 22nd at 2:30 PM to discuss the psychological

B*I*N*G*O

Join us on Friday, April 24 in the Fellowship Hall (Lancaster) for fun, fellowship and prizes! Free to play, and all ages welcome! Doors open at 6:30pm - bingo starts at 7:00pm.

Bingo chips, drinks and snacks will be available for anyone who doesn't bring their own!

YOUTH EVENTS

March 29, 8:00 – 9:30am	Serve breakfast to congregation, family and public. -----
11:00am – 12:00pm	Assist with Easter egg hunt.

Poppi's Pantry is extremely grateful for all donations. If you are looking for donation ideas, **the pantry is in dire need of ready-to-eat soups**. You may also consider: cereal, canned meats (chicken, spam), canned meals (Hash, stew), canned fruit (sugar free too), pasta sauce (including Alfredo) and single serving pudding and/or gelatin cups (including sugar free), Thank you!

Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available for **Communion**

One Call Now: One Call Now is the automated phone service we use to make “robo calls” to the congregation with closings, updates, event information and general reminders. If you are not receiving calls but would like to, please leave a note, send an email, or call the office with the best phone number we can use to reach you. Thank you.

Soup Fest 2026: Join us for great soup and even better fellowship!

Soup Fest fellowship event is on April 25th from 4-7pm this year.

If you are interested in making soup for the event, please sign up on the sheet at the back stairs entrance of the church.

There are only 15 spots open for making soup, so sign up soon!

LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

FASTNACHT SUNDAY ~ MARCH 22ND

Fastnachts @ 8am

PALM SUNDAY ~ MARCH 29TH

Pancake Breakfast @ 8am-10am

Worship @ 10am

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11am

MAUNDY THURS ~ APRIL 2ND

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Elma
2131 Woodard Rd, Elma NY 14059

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 3RD

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Lancaster

EASTER VIGIL ~ SAT APRIL 4TH

Worship @ 5:30pm @ Lancaster

RESURRECTION SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5TH

Worship @ 8:45am @ Elma

Worship @ 10am @ Lancaster

Pancake Breakfast

Palm Sunday

March 29th
from 8-10 am

Free will donations accepted

All are Welcome



St. John's Lancaster, 55 Pleasant Ave (716) 683-8972

EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY MARCH 29TH

AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, 55 PLEASANT AVE, LANCASTER



For Ages 3- Grade 7
Rain or Shine



This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Pancake Breakfast	8:00am	Fellowship Hall
YOUTH: Breakfast Service	8:00am - 9:30am	Fellowship Hall
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Easter Egg Hunt	11:00am	
YOUTH: Egg Hunt	11:00am - 12:00pm	
Choir Practice	11:05am - 11:20am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs

Monday, March 30, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Girl Scouts	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Maundy Thursday Worship @ Elma	7:00pm	

Friday, April 3, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Good Friday Worship @ Lancaster	7:00pm	

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Guiding Eyes	1:00am - 2:00am	Fellowship Hall
Easter Vigil @ Lancaster	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary

MISSION STATEMENT

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church provides
an inviting environment for spreading God's Word
through worship, teaching, and fellowship to address
the spiritual needs of our congregation and community.
Open - Inviting - Alive in Christ!*

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)
Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson -Rev. John Scarafia
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Office 683-8972 (Mon-Wed-Thurs 10am-3pm)
www.stjohnslanc.org
stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)
Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer	Jeff Miller
Tom Frost	Rich Rice
Sam Gierlinger	Paul Rudz
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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