

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

March 29, 2026



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 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.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

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Welcome to Zion!

*“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love...”*

(Joel 2:13)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

INTRODUCTION & ACCLAMATION

As we begin our worship, we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, during which the crowds proclaim him a king.

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

Hosanna in the highest!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

BLESSING OF PALMS

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 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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #344

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 together:

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me”

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Silence for meditation follows the readings.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hosanna”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #320

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

Let us pray together... **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.**

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

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:

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en - ly hosts.

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en - ly hosts.

13 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

16 Ho-san - na! Ho-san - na! Ho - san-na in the high -

19 - est. Ho-san - na! Ho-san - na!

Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!



Bless-ed is he ___ who comes ___ in the name of the Lord! ___

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
 name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
 will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
 Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
 sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
 gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
 e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the



SHARING THE MEAL

*During the season of Lent, our meal is shared in silence.
You are encouraged to use this time for prayer and contemplation.*

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**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.**

SERMON

GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading resumes immediately following the joy and celebration of Palm Sunday and propels us into the events of Christ's Passion, leaving us in suspense for the continuation of the story.

At the conclusion of the Gospel reading, the Minister will depart in silence, and the Assembly is asked to do the same.

Worship resumes with the Confession & Forgiveness on Maundy Thursday.

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Today's Readings

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

Processional Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

When 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."

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me
a trained tongue,
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;

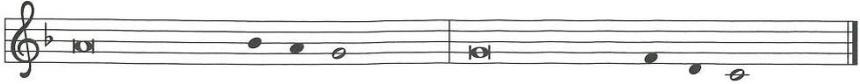
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

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 in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

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



Have mercy on me, O LORD,
for I ¹ am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat ¹ and my belly.
¹⁰ For my life is wasted with grief,
and my ¹ years with sighing;
my strength fails me
because of affliction,
and my bones ¹ are consumed.
¹¹ I am the scorn of my enemies,
a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to ¹ my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street
¹ they avoid me.
¹² Like the dead I am forgotten,
¹ out of mind;
I am as useless as a ¹ broken pot.

¹³ For I have heard
the whispering of the crowd;
fear is ¹ all around;
they put their heads together
against me;
they plot to ¹ take my life.
¹⁴ But as for me,
I have trusted in ¹ you, O LORD.
I have said, "You ¹ are my God."
¹⁵ My times are ¹ in your hand;
rescue me
from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who ¹ persecute me.
¹⁶ Let your face shine
up- ¹ on your servant;
save me in your ¹ steadfast love."

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in
Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form
of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance
as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point
of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even
more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and
under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel

Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54 [not printed]

TODAY'S READINGS March 29, 2026

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Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18.

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