



Palm Sunday

March 29 & 30, 2026

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We welcome our guests who are worshipping with us today. Thanks for joining us! We are a community of ordinary people who gather to hear the message of God's grace in Jesus. We believe that he is our savior—and yours, too!

We'd love to have you join us again soon. Please take a moment to fill out a connection card (located in the back of the pew in front of you). The blue side is for members to fill out and the yellow side is for visitors.

A lounge for parents needing to quiet small children is located at the rear of church. The room has a clear window for viewing and is equipped with a speaker system.

A hearing loop is available in the worship area and fellowship hall. Set your hearing aid to “t-coil” or ask for headphones at the A/V desk in the back of church.



Today's Worship

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of “Holy Week.” We follow Jesus as he completes his work of paying for the world's sin. On the first Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem like a king, and the crowds that gathered called out “Hosanna!” which means “Please save!” He was not the kind of king we'd expect. He was a king determined to humble himself for our sakes.

To Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Lord, I'm here to worship you. You are here, too, to speak to me. Give me a focused heart ready to listen to you. Show me how I've failed this week, so that I can see all the more how you have loved me. Give me a heart that loves to praise and thank you for your everlasting goodness to me.

We Gather to Sing Hosanna

Bethlehem Children: Hosanna!

Sunday

Children's Message

Sunday

Invocation

Pastor: The grace ✝ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

P: Friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have prepared to celebrate the fulfillment of our Savior's mission. Today we begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. Christ entered into Jerusalem to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let's remember with repentant hearts that the king cheered on by the crowds is the same king who will reign from the cross as the crowds jeer, "Crucify him!" United with him in his death through Baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest!

Confession

P: Jesus, our Savior-King, has come to save us. Let's join together to confess our sins to him.

C: Jesus, my Savior, I come to you to unload the burden of my heart. You are my King, but I have not worshiped you with my whole heart. My lips have not given you the honor you deserve. I have used my hands to carry out my will and not yours. I struggle in my heart to stay close to you in your Word and trust you in all things. Hosanna – save me, please!

Silence for private confession

Absolution

P: Christ has come to save you. Jesus emptied himself of all his glory to become one of us. He became obedient to God's curse on sin to pay the full penalty our heavenly Father demanded. The curse is lifted from you. I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son ✝, and of the Holy Spirit. Go and live your lives to God's glory in all you think, say and do!

C: Amen.

Our Humble King Comes to Us

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem,

and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Hymn: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Blue Hymnal, p.411 sts. 1-2

Second Reading

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Blue Hymnal, p.411 st. 3

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Hymn: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Blue Hymnal, p.411 sts. 4-5

Today's Message from God's Word

“First the Cross, Then the Crown”

Philippians 2:5-11

We Praise Our King

Hymn: We All Believe in One True God

Blue Hymnal, p.940

Offering

Your offerings are just one way you support the gospel ministry we do, and we thank God for them! Guests are welcome to give but need not feel obligated. If you'd like to give online, scan the QR code on the right side of the page or go to bethlehem-wels.com/giving.



Give Online

Please also use this time to sign the connection card located in the back of the pew in front of you and quietly meditate. Sign the blue side if you're a member, or the yellow side if you're a visitor. Drop it off in the offering plates as they're passed along your row.

The Church's Prayer

- P: On this day, so many years ago, the people welcomed you, Lord, into Jerusalem as a triumphant king.
- C: Give us hearts that welcome your presence in our lives through your Word and Sacraments.**
- P: On that day the people paved your road with palm branches and coats and cheered him through the city.
- C: Give us feet that go enthusiastically to celebrate your victory in our worship here and our witness in the world.**
- P: On that day of great rejoicing, Lord Jesus Christ, the shadow of death hung over the city,
- C: Give us eyes to see the shadow of your cross as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.**
- P: On this Palm Sunday, strengthen our faith so that when our crosses weigh us down we might still call out to you with heartfelt praise.
- C: Give us the grace and the courage to follow you this Holy Week from death to resurrection, from darkness to the fullness of light. You are the King we need. Hosanna!**

Special Prayers

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

We Go with God's Blessing

Today's Psalm

Psalm 24

P: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

C: for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

P: Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

C: The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.

P: Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

C: Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

P: Who is this King of glory?

C: The LORD strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

P: Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

C: Who is he, this King of glory?

P: The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Blessing

P: The Almighty God, the Father of our Lord † Jesus Christ, strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings. Go in peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This

Blue Hymnal, p.526

Acknowledgments

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Bethlehem's Mission

There is no more important message than the one about Jesus. He's the world's savior. That's Good News (1 Corinthians 1:23)!

Because of our love for that message, we make it our goal to reflect God's love by:

- **Gathering** · *Enjoying fellowship with God and our fellow believers (1 John 1:1-3).*
- **Growing** · *Strengthening and maturing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word (Isaiah 55:10-11).*
- **Going**
 1. *Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with our family, friends, community, and co-workers (Mark 16:15).*
 2. *Using our unique gifts to serve God and our neighbors in our callings inside and outside of this congregation (1 Corinthians 12:1).*

Pastors

Tristan Paustian

tpaustian@bethlehem-wels.com

920.779.6761 ext. 324 (office)

262.612.3870 (cell)

Kevin Westra

kwestra@bethlehem-wels.com

920.779.6761 ext. 323 (office)

614.270.1318 (cell)

Principal

John Kujath

principal@bethlehem-wels.com

920.779.6761 ext. 326

Early Childhood Director

Nikki Johnson

njohnson@bethlehem-wels.com

920.779.6761 ext. 325

Church

752 E. Grandview Rd.

Hortonville, WI 54944

Office and School

126 N Pine St.

Hortonville, WI 54944

office@bethlehem-wels.com

920.779.6761

Weekly Services

Sundays at 8:00am & 10:30am

Mondays at 6:30pm

Streamed at 8:00 and 10:30am on [YouTube](#).

