

March 29, 2026



PALM *Sunday*

“*Hosanna!*
Blessed is He
who comes in the name
of the Lord, indeed the
King of Israel!”

John 12:13, NASB



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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

My Song Is Love Unknown

Michael Burkhardt
One License #10-328

Lift Up Your Heads

Michael Burkhardt
One License #10-318.1

WELCOME

ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This 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.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹
The 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

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.

Let us go forth in peace,

in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor RED ELW #344
(Vs. 1, 4 & 5)

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.

⁶ I 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.

⁷ The 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;
⁸ he 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?

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

- ⁹ Have 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.**
- ¹¹ I am the scorn of all 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.**
- ¹³ For 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.**
- ¹⁵ My 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 READING: 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.

- ⁵ 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Song Is Love Unknown RED ELW #343
(Vs. 1, 3 & 6)

- 1 **My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

- 3 **Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.**

**6 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!**

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 PEACE

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Michael Burkhardt

One License #10-315.6

OFFERING HYMN

We Give Thee but Thine Own RED ELW #686

(Vs. 1)

1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

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 your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image RED ELW #811

On my heart imprint your image,
blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life's troubles nor its pleasures
ever may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation,
all my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt.
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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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Weekly Announcements

Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Hunger Jar for the month of March is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

Lord, Is It I? - This drama presentation will be presented on Sunday, March 29 at 4pm at Zion Lutheran Church by the Ecumenical Churches of Arlington. Sibley County FoodShare donations will be accepted.

2025 Choice Dollars/Thrivent Members—Thrivent clients with membership: Don't forget to direct 2025 Choice Dollars® by March 31 at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Easter Lily Cross—We need additional lilies to have the lily cross at Easter this year. Please let Stacy know if you plan on bringing in your own lily.

Coffee Hour—The confirmation youth have indicated they would like to go to Confirmation Camp at Camp House in 2027. They are looking to raise money to attend Camp. The proceeds from Coffee Hour from March through June have been designated for Camp.

Clattering Coins for Christ will be today, Sunday, March 29.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 29—9a Worship

4p Ecumenical Drama, “Lord, Is It I?”

Maundy Thursday, April 2—6:30p Worship w/Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3—6:30p Worship

Easter Sunday, April 5—7a Worship at Zion Cemetery

Fellowship to follow at Zion

9a Worship w/Holy Communion

If there is questionable weather, please check our website and Facebook pages.

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of March 29

Tuesday, March 31—12p-4p

Wednesday, April 1—2:30p-4p

by appointment

Stacy’s Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

Worship Assistants

March 29—Palm Sunday

Usher: Neil & Lorraine Mielke
 Peg Kamps, Scott Bergs
 Greeter: Tim & Stacy Haggemiller
 Acolyte: Jazmyne Wark
 Reader: Stephanie Krueger
 AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad

April 2—Maundy Thursday

Usher: Brad & Brenda Danielson
 Cindy Quast, Scott Bergs
 Greeter: Nick Schiroo
 Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
 Reader: Elton Hazelwood
 Altar Guild: Larry & Pam Schiroo
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
 Altar Guild: Jackie Alsleben

April 3—Good Friday

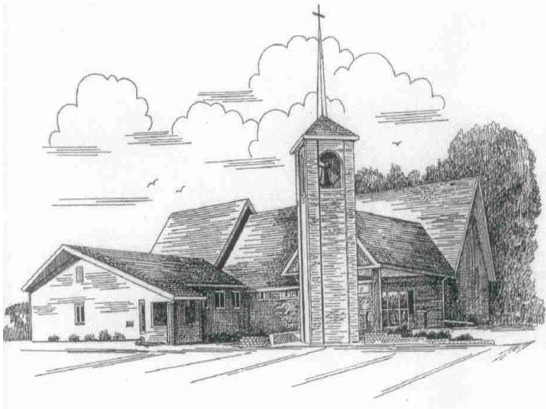
Usher: Scott Bergs
 Greeter: Larry & Pam Schiroo
 Acolyte: Murdock Krueger
 Reader: Bruce Kallhoff
 Altar Guild: Jan Giesen

April 5—Easter

Usher: Mark & Lisa Strobel
 Larry & Pam Schiroo
 Greeter: Starla Schilling
 Acolyte: Emmilia Wark
 Reader: Peg Kamps
 Altar Guild: Peg Kamps, Jan Wark
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
 Altar Guild: Ann Werner

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	Debt Retirement	ELCA Missions	Hunger Jar	Parking Lot
3/18/2025	\$ 735.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113.00	\$ 740.00
3/22/2025	\$ 1,866.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 725.00

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 Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com
 Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, March 29	9:00a 10:00a 4:00p	Worship Sunday School Ecumenical Drama Presentation: "Lord, Is It I?"
Wednesday, April 1	1:30p	Wednesday Bible Study
Thursday, April 2	10:00a 6:30p	Adult Bible Study Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion
Friday, April 3	6:30p	Good Friday Worship
Sunday, April 5	7:00a 7:45a 9:00a	Sunrise Service at Zion Cemetery Pastries and Coffee Worship with Holy Communion

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

