

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4–9a

- ⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Mourning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the
beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
- ⁷ But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a 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 up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
- ^{9a} Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Epistle: Philippians 2:5–11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:1–27:66

... ²⁷Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ²⁸And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ²⁹and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ³⁰So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ³¹"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come

down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ³²He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.' ³³And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

³⁴Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ³⁵And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁶And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ³⁷And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ³⁸But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ³⁹And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁴⁰And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁴¹The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁴²and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁴³When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁴⁴There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁴⁵among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁴⁶When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁴⁷He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁴⁸And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁴⁹and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁵⁰Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁵¹Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁵²and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁵³Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁵⁴Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁵⁵So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

About the Cover: Christ came to us in humility, taking the form of an obedient servant. On Palm Sunday, He again came in humility, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Then, the ultimate sign of His humility was shown on Good Friday. Paradoxically, it was His being lifted up on the cross that was the greatest sign of His glory and exaltation. It is through His death on the cross that Christ has won for us the forgiveness of sins. This alone is the power of God for salvation for all who believe (see 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16). We proclaim today, "Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).



Palm Sunday



He humbled Himself
to death on a cross

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

815-989-2025

March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion

*

Divine Service Setting One (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 151)

The congregation gathers in the narthex for the Procession of Palms. (If you do not desire to process in you may be seated in the nave immediately before the service.) During the hymn, the procession is lead by the cross followed by the pastor and the congregation as a whole. Members of the congregation, upon entering the nave, may go directly to their pews.

Procession of Palms

Stand

Greeting

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism. P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

C Hosanna to the Son of David.

Collect

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts, and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Holy Gospel *John 12:12-19* ¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming,

sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of the Lord.

Processional Hymn 442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

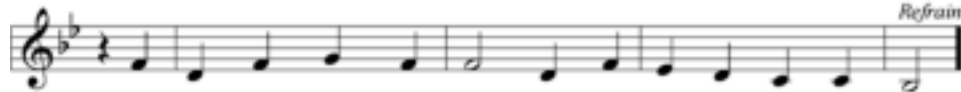
Refrain



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 To - tal And Da - vid's suc - ce - ssor
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is 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 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring.

Refrain



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
And we with all cre - a - tion 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.
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

When the processional hymn concludes and all are in their places:

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. C

Hosanna in the highest.

(The service continues on p. 156)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 156)

P Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Sav ior

Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. (*sung*).

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gradual *Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a* [Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

**Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,
so that those who are called may receive the promised
eternal inheritance.**

He sent redemption to his people;

he has commanded his covenant forever.

Lent Verse (p. 157)

Hymn of the Day 438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

Sermon

Apostles' Creed (p. 159)

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory (p. 159)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 160)

(Please read the statement below before receive Holy Communion.)

EVANGELISM/STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION March 2026

As a kid, I remember my grandma and grandpa's home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat in their bedroom. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as grandpa read to grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."



Distribution Hymns

443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

444 No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet

Post-Communion Hymn 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction (p. 166)

Hymn to Depart 441 Ride On, Ride On in

Majesty *Silent Prayer*

Receiving Holy Communion at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's in the confession and confidence that, as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, to strengthen our fight against sin and grow in His likeness, to assure us of our own bodily resurrection on the Last Day, and to increase our unity of love with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, so that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and judgment, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to first speak with the pastor before receiving the Sacrament.

For further study: Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor 10:16; 11:17-34; 27-30; Acts 2:42; 20:27.

Acknowledgements

Hymn 442 : Text and tune: Public domain

***We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.***

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

***We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You; Through trial and tempest our guide You have been. When perils o’ertake us,
You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.***

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God’s provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us. To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God’s strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God’s glory and the benefit of our neighbor!



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org

pastor@stjohnsgeneseo.org

Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org

***HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE***

Rev. Timothy Nerud, Pastor 815-989-2025 (Office) 612-940-8138
(Cell)

Elder: Mike Dahl

Hymn Leader: Larry Kane or Bobby Wolfe

Greeter: Janet Bertsons

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Blessed Jesus, who for our sins suffered the terror of the Father's wrath and for our eternities endured the desolation of the Father's judgment, accept our gratitude and praise: Hosanna! Blessed be the Son of God who has redeemed us; Hosanna in the highest! Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Sup

per handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours all ways.

OFFICE HOURS

Terri Monday—Friday, please call ahead Pastor Tuesday— Friday please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/>
and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday school—3 Adult Bible class—8 Worship —45

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$3,640.00 Weekly Budget for 2026 \$4,379.13

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today 8:45 am SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Divine
Worship/Holy Communion Thursday 7:00 pm Holy Thursday
Worship/Holy Com Friday 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Sunday 7:00
am Easter Divine Service/Holy Comm 8:30 am Easter Breakfast in
Fellowship Hall

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SUNDAY—We invite all to worship with us this Holy Thursday, remembering and joining in the meal given to us by our Lord and Savior. Our meditation will continue on Good Friday pondering the extent Christ went, to redeem us and give us for giveness and eternal life. We come again together Easter morning with exceeding joy and thanksgiving that our Savior is ALIVE, that He is preparing an eternal home for us and will return to take us to Himself. Following the Easter service, all are invited to stay for and Easter Breakfast and fellowship.

Building Healthy Families: If it weren't for the events of nearly 2000 years ago this week, it really wouldn't matter what we do or say here at Lutheran Family Service. At best, counseling would be a temporary fix. But thank God, it did happen and it does matter. During Holy Week we reflect with you on Jesus's life, Passion, sacrifice, and death – but not without a sure, confident hope. As Easter People, we walk through this dark week with solemnity while preparing in our hearts to celebrate Christ's triumphant resurrection from the dead. With you, we believe in God who raised Jesus. The reality of these historic events gives meaning and purpose to every one of our days. His redeeming love guides all our choices and relationships. LFS counselors who share your confident hope and faith are available to support you through whatever life circumstance or unresolved issue may be trying to steal your joy today. Call us – it's why we're here! Learn more at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**



GOLD EARRING FOUND in the parking lot. Please check with Terri to see if it is yours.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember the centrality of God's Word as you pray:

MISSION—*Pray for seminarians' wives*, that they would be prepared to support their husband's call into the ministry. Pray for their children, that they rejoice in the Gospel and in their father's calling.

ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Rahn—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Kevin and Stacie asking Your blessings on them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants: **Linda Aper Paula Chapa Joyce DeFauw John Erdman Betty Firch Marcia Helke Jessica Johnson Rosalie Jorgensen Linda Lundquist Mary Jayne Nash Aaron Raschke Drew Schillinger Dave Schmidt Carolyn Werner Denice Winchell Carolyn Wildermuth Marilyn Woods**

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)
Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)
Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)
Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)
Joline Parrish (sister of Gayla Kroll)
Ann Behrendt (daughter of Carolyn Wildermuth)
Lyall Talarico (niece of Mary Jo Gehn)
Cindy Davenport (cousin of Terri Hock)
Chad Gehn (nephew of Brad Gehn)
Jeff Schreck (cousin of Terri Hock)

MILITARY—Pray for our military and their families:

Luke Thompson (son of John/Kindra Thompson)
Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)
Brittany Lenni (daughter of Gabe Loenser)
Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)
Chase Werling (nephew of Joel Werling)
Carter Martwig (nephew of Joel Werling)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“No place on earth should be a safer refuge for that tiny innocent child than the womb, the place of *racham*, the place of mercy. Abortion in vades and destroys that refuge, that mercy, at its very source. Sadly, abortion has become a part of the brutalization of human life, a sad commentary on the cruelty of human nature.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan— A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Henry County Right to Life
Springtime Luncheon for Life

Sat. April 11, 2026

11:30AM - 1:30PM (Doors open 11:00AM)

**Featuring Molly Malone Rumley
IL Right to Life Lobbyist & Family Advocate
Reservations Required - Tickets \$15 donation**

**Concordia Lutheran Church
316 S Oakwood Ave, Geneseo IL**

**Please RSVP by April 4th - For tickets contact
henrycountyr2l@gmail.com or Diane Gelaude**

**Diane@bluehorizon.net 309-236-0748 or
Cheryl Maxson (309) 714-9595**

Proceeds of fundraiser go to HCRTL projects.