

Palm Sunday
Sunday March 29, 2026



ONLINE
GIVING



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026

* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

***GREETING**

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

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

***BLESSING OF PALMS**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN** *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

ELW #344

At the conclusion of the hymn, the people raise their palm branches and shout:

People: *Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

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?

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 31:9-16

Read responsively

⁹ 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 all 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

- 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.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.
People: *Thanks be to God*

***Gospel Acclamation**

p. 142a

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

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."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *My Song is Love Unknown*

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,
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;
The world that was his own would not its Savior know.
But, oh my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend,
Who at my need his life did spend!

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,
And for his death we thirst and cry.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Asst. Min.: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Between each petition the following is said:

Asst. Min.: Hear us, O God,
People: *Your mercy is great.*

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

People: *Amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hosanna to the Son Ed Harris
Chancel Choir; Ann Hossler, piano

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER Spoken in Unison

**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** p. 144a

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus** p. 144b

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Spoken in Unison

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that 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.*

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

***TABLE BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Spoken in Unison

**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.**

***BENEDICTION**

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.

***SENDING HYMN** *Blessing and Honor*

ELW #854

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *The Palms*

Jean-Baptiste Faure

Game Day—March 15, 2026



2026 Lent/ Easter Dates

March 28, 29 - Palm Weekend

April 2 - Maundy Thursday, 12 Noon

April 3 - Good Friday, 12 Noon & 7

April 4 & 5 -Easter



COMMUNITY MEAL

The meals are distributed on the third Monday of each month at Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg. Prep work starts that morning at 9am at St. Matthew. Contact Barb Elsen if you would like to be a part of this vital ministry.

Weekly Prayer List

Kaye Ames, Sean Carter, Sarah Challenger, Don Dubs,
James & Mabel Frazier, Ruth Graver,
Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand, Tim Kauffman,
Debbie LaNasa, Anna Neal, Bill Overly,
Joan Paternus & Abbey, Diane Repp,
Buzz Rothweiler, Bob & Carolyn Sampson,
Steve Schweers, Betty Sheaffer,
Anna Stager, Angie Wendler and Shirley Wertz

Community Businesses Giving Back

When you eat at Park City Diner or Knight and Day Diner, simply mention St. Matthew at checkout. A percentage of your bill will be donated to our church, and we receive quarterly checks through their community program.

Enjoy a meal, support a local business, and bless our church — all at no extra cost to you!



**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Statement of Welcome, Affirmation
and Full Participation**



Welcome to St Matthew, the little church
with a big heart.



We are a Reconciling in Christ
(Open and Affirming)
congregation, so when we say "all are welcome",
we really mean it.

We strive to live that out in our actions as well as our words.
We publicly and humbly commit to do what it takes to truly be
a sanctuary filled with warmth, love, understanding, safety,
respect and care for all who enter here.

*(Please see our Full Statement of Welcome, Affirmation and Full
Participation on our website: www.stmatthewelc.com. Copies of
the Full Statement are also available in the Education
and Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)*



**Lenten devotional booklets
for 2026 are now available in the
church lobby.**

These are free and for anyone to take.

**This booklet finishes on Easter Sunday, but
can be started/finished at any time.**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

3/9	Barb Emmerich
3/10	Sammy Sweitzer
3/14	Buzz Rothweiler
3/14	Pat Smith
3/17	Ray Shaub
3/25	Sandy Tucker
3/27	Sarah Teichmann
3/30	Judith Miller

The Congregation

The Ministers

Pastor Robin Fero

Church Office

phone: 717-394-9607
Website: stmatthewelc.com
Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

Cliff Eshbach
Council President

Susan Feldmann
Director of Music/Choir

Ann Hossler
Organist/Pianist

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care for March:	Barb Elsen & Linda Tice
Assisting Minister:	Barb Emmerich
Greeters:	Andrea Farris & Kaye Ames
Usher:	Barb Elsen
Reader:	Linda Tice
Counters:	Carol Rothweiler & Brenda Stauffer

3/28 Saturday
5:00pm Palm Worship

4/4 Saturday
10:00am Bell Choir
11:00am Vocal Choir
5:00pm Easter Vigil Worship

3/29 Sunday
10:00am Palm Sunday
Worship

4/5 Sunday
10:00am Easter Worship

4/1 Wednesday
6:30pm M.T. Democratic
Committee *

**Events scheduled for outside groups that use
our facility. You are welcome to attend or sign up for
all other events on the calendar.*

4/2 Thursday
12:00pm Maundy Thursday
Worship

4/3 Friday
12:00pm Good Friday
Worship
7:00pm Good Friday
Worship

***Scripture Readings—
April 4-5, 2026***

**Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10**