

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2026**  
**Palm Sunday**

*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.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

**C: Hosanna to the Son of David.**

AM: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

AM: Let us pray....

**C: God of our salvation, help us to enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts by which you have given us everlasting life, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\*Hymn**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

**ELW 344 v1-2**

**Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "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."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd

spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

**C: And also with you.**

**\*Hymn**

*All Glory, Laud and Honor*

**ELW 344 v 3-5**

**\*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.**

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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;  
<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9a</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16**

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I | am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

<sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;  
I am as useless as a | broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O Lord.  
I have said, “You | are my God.**

<sup>15</sup> My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

<sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
L: Word of God. Word of Life  
C: **Thanks be to God**

**Children's Sermon**

**Katie Bills**

**The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

**\*Hymn**

*Christ, the Life of All the Living*

**ELW 339**

**\*Apostles Creed**

**pg 105**

**\* Prayers of Intercession**

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**\*Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

**Offering:** *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

**Noisy Offering** – *money will go towards the youth mission trip this Summer.*

**\*Offering prayer**

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.  
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.**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**\*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.**

**\*Hymn**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

**ELW 264**

**\*Dismissal**

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

**Assisting in Worship**

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Assisting: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Craig and Nancy Hamilton, Aaron and Kim Peimann

Ushers: Vera Hartman, Karla Berg, Terry Hansen, Doug Kinseth

Tech: Marc Matthes