

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2026



Christ Lutheran Church

29 S. George Street, York, Pa. 17401

Our Mission:

Reflect God's love in the heart of York

Our Vision:

To be a vibrant congregation in the heart of York praising God,
connecting people to Christ,
and serving the people of York and the world

*Companions with the Itete Hospital of the
Konde Diocese,
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania*

Words about the day.

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.

(Procession begins in the courtyard, weather permitting)

The Entrance Rite

The Procession with Palms

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

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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(All raise their palm branches.)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day, he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of the Lord.

The procession enters the nave via the portico. When all are gathered in the nave, the hymn is sung.



Processional Hymn "All Glory Laud and Honor"

LBW 108



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 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.

cre - a - tion and all mor - tals 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.

great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

The Liturgy of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Anthem

Ride On! Ride on in Majesty

(G. George)

Announcements

Children's Message

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, 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. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I 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. ⁷The 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; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16 *(Sung in unison)*

⁹**Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I¹ am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat¹ and my belly.**

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my¹ years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones¹ are consumed.**

¹¹**I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to¹ my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street¹ they avoid me.**

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten,¹ out of mind;
I am as useless as a¹ broken pot.**

¹³**For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is¹ all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to¹ take my life.**

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in¹ you, O LORD.
I have said, "You¹ are my God.**

¹⁵**My times are¹ in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who¹ persecute me.**

¹⁶**Let your face shine up-¹ on your servant;
save me in your¹ steadfast love."**

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Verse



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Matthew

See Insert.

Silence is kept after the reading of the Passion.

Prayers

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Prayers conclude:

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

C: Amen.

The Eucharistic Meal

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offertory

On the Via Dolorosa

(D. Wagner)



Sung by Congregation)



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: 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 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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface and Sanctus

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

All who are baptized are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Approach the chancel rail by way of the side aisles, beginning in the rear of the nave. Dip the host in the first cup or drink from the common cup. Worshipers may stand or kneel at the chancel rail to receive the sacrament. Return to your pew by way of the center aisle. Gluten-free wafers are available.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

C: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Fraction and Agnus Dei

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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music during Distribution

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335



- 1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
- 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

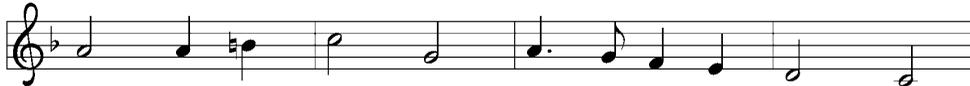
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

“There in God’s Garden”

ELW 342



1 There in God’s gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, “Our Sav - ior!”
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f’ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, “Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing.”

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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Only sung if needed

“My Song is Love Unknown”

WOV 661



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then “Cru - ci - fy!” is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

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The Dismissal

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: 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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn "Jesus, Remember Me"

ELW 616

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn "Jesus, Remember Me". Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system includes a fermata over the final chord of the phrase. The second system includes a double bar line at the end of the phrase.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community

Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please join us in the Lower Narthex for coffee hour.



Prayer List

We strive to keep the prayer list current, especially in these uncertain times. Please notify us whether there are additions to this list or whether a name should be taken off.

Members

Shirley Cook, Mel and Lolli Dick, Naomi Duncan, Rodney Flinchbaugh, Ron Heilman, Steven Heilman, Bill Hullman, David Kauffman, Pat Kronk, Marsha Linden, John Long, Jr., Patricia Lowe, John and Mary Lou Manley, Richard Meckley, Jen Risser, Doris Ritter, Mary Shepp, Sally Smith, Don Striebig, Doris Weaver, Robert Weikert.

Others

Robert Appleton, Greg Beck, Kelly Bell, Edward Bender, Jr., Roman Bondarevskyi, Joan Boyce, Christina Brokus, David Brudnicki and family, Nancy Buettner, Andy Doss, Susan Ellison, Terry Flinchbaugh, Richard Fox, Gus Frank, Mark Garber, Lynda Godfrey, Christina Hackeling, Julie Hadaszy, Bill, Charlie, and Wayne Hensel, Daniel Hertig, Liz, Heather and Jessica Houlding, Kay Leiphart, Kristin Klinedinst, Ellen Meyers, Jeff Miller, Glenn Myers, Dottie Morris, Jack Neuman family, Lois Olson, Dale Parker, John Pavoncelli, April Paske, Leo Pufall, Nancy Quintin, Bick Sandin, Pastor Amy Schiffrin, Robert Settee, Selena Strine, Denny and Jan Stroshane, Dan Sutton, Robert Wagaman, Susan Wagner, Rev. Allan S. and Bonnie Wysocki, Stephen L. Wysocki.

Serving during worship

Presiding Minister	Rev. George Fitch
Assisting Ministers	Marc Gross Adrienne Brenner
Acolytes	Tipton Brenner Shea Vanada James Anderson
Reader	Lynn Keller
Lower Narthex	Terry Hoover
Back Door	Diane Einsig
Altar Guild	Marlene Coval, Susan Lease, Barbara Shepp, Phyllis and Xander March
Ushers	Ed Schaeberle, Dave Barkdoll, Scott Donner, Eric Gerz, Dennis Risser
Readers of the Passion	Phyllis March, Matt March, Marc Gross, Paul Schendel, Bill Cooley, Lynn Myers

The palm branches are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carol and Lee Schlenker by the family.





The Rev. George W. Fitch, Jr.

Our guest presider this week retired from Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in West York in 2004 after serving as Pastor at St Mark Lutheran Church in Colonial Park, PA. He also previously served as Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour in Lansdowne, Maryland and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jefferson, Md.



Soup Kitchen

Today and April 5-Noodles out for pick up
April 12-Hamburger and noodle return
April 19-Baked goods due
April 20-Soup kitchen delivery



Guys Night Out

Tuesday, April 14th at 6:00pm
At the Great American Grille
RSVP to Chaplain Steinhilber at
717-881-2578 or call the church office.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Community Meal

April 26

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
for
Holy
WEEK



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 3, at 12:15 pm

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4, at 7:00 pm

Easter Day, April 5, at 10:00 am

Note that the Easter Vigil will start in the courtyard
(weather permitting).



You're invited to

EASTER

BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT

04 | 05 | 2026

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Join us in the Parish Hall Easter morning for breakfast and a egg hunt for the kids! Please bring a dish to share.

RSVP by signing up in the parlor or contact Alexa Sheaffer (717) 825-8920 or Christianed@christlutheranyork.com



Christ Lutheran Church

717-854-5589, Fax: 717-845-4213

Child Care Center: 717-854-2239

www.christlutheranyork.org

E-mail: office@christlutheranyork.com

www.facebook.com/christlutheranyork

Welcome!

So we can know you better, please complete an attendance card found in the pew and place it in an offering plate. If you have no church home, we invite you to membership at Christ Lutheran Church. We hope you return to worship and participate in our life in Christ!

The Liturgy

Our worship is the historic liturgy of the Christian Church - a celebration of Word and Sacrament, the means through which God gives forgiveness, life and salvation. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in accordance with the understanding of the Lutheran Confessions that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

Worship resources are found in the pews. The "Lutheran Book of Worship" (noted LBW inside the bulletin) is the green hardback hymnal. The "With One Voice" (noted WOV inside the bulletin) is the blue softback hymnal. The "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" (noted ELW inside the bulletin) is the red hardback hymnal.

Children are always welcome at worship!

We value the participation of our children in worship! As members of the church, children participate in the worship service. They listen to God's Word, gather at the Lord's table, serve as readers, acolytes, choir members, and more. Feel free to take children in and out as necessary.

Christ Lutheran Church Staff

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Alexa Sheaffer, Youth and Family Coordinator
christianed@christlutheranyork.com

Eric R. D. Patches, Custodian

Council Members

Keith Stoltzfus	President
Adrienne Brenner	Vice President
Tom Keller	Treasurer
Cindy Cooley	Secretary
Ed Garber	
Tom Gross	
Rochelle Nyman	
Tom Olson	
Hank Steinhilber	
Jen Vanada	
Leslee Yoder	

Founded in 1733 with the baptism of Maria Catharina Beyer, Christ Church was the first Lutheran congregation west of the Susquehanna River. Christ Church remains an active and vibrant congregation carrying on the mission of Christ and approaches the future with confidence and hope. Christ Church strives to minister in faithfulness to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Its ministry centers in the weekly liturgy of Word and Sacrament and pursues particular Lutheran emphases in art and music, fellowship, education, and pastoral care. Three buildings have been used for worship. A log building was erected in 1744; a stone building replaced it in 1760. Two bells from the 1760 stone building still call people to worship in the present building, built in 1812. Three Lutheran congregations in York are descendants of Christ Church.