

PALM SUNDAY
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, FERNDALE
10:30 AM, MARCH 29, 2026

Prelude

“The Palms” - Faure

Scott Schroeder

Welcome & Announcements

Special Fanfare

*Note: Today we begin and end facing the baptismal font, the place of death and life, with the words of the gospel.
We mark movement, from honor and life, to suffering and death, as we begin this Holy Week.*

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

People: Hosanna in the highest!

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing.

Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Pastor: God sees our hearts and knows our innermost thoughts. We can deny our wrongs to ourselves but we cannot hide them from God. As we confess our sins, let us do so knowing we say nothing that is not already known to God, who is not fooled by our strength, but loves us in our weakness.

Asst Min: Savior Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts,
and still you love us - you have loved us to the end.

We have denied you,

and we have denied our calling to serve one another.

We have betrayed you,

and we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.

Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us,

Teach us to love and serve you faithfully and to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

Pastor: Now the Savior Jesus Christ has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. Now the promise is fulfilled, and love's redeeming work is done: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel - Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O God.**

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 Living One. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Assistant: 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.**

Pastor: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! **Hosanna in the highest!**

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 Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are 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,

Refrain

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.

Special Music

“Hosanna (Praise is Rising)”

Zion Juniors Music

Please join us on the chorus:

*Hosanna, Hosanna, You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna, come have Your way among us, We welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

Pastor: In the name of the Creator, and of the ✠ Savior, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Assistant: 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 Ruler, and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.

Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.

Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -

san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The 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 awakens — awakens 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 backwards. 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. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

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

Psalms 31:9-16

⁹Be gracious to me, O God, for I am in distress;

my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

¹⁰**For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;**

my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors,

an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;**

I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—

as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

14 But I trust in you, O God;

I say, 'You are my God.'

15 My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

16 Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love.

Choir Anthem

Sermon

Pastor Matthew Bode

Hymn

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Hymn 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Apostles' Creed

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

power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 Intercession

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

Now is the Time of Grace (Refrain)

(ACS 918)



O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Now is the Time of Grace

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day, especially those we bring to you now.... God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Now is the Time of Grace

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Now is the Time of Grace

Pastor: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Offertory

“What Feast of Love” (to the tune of “What Child is This”, verse 1)

Hymn 487

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet comes from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread comes down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Offertory Prayer:

Pastor: God of all good gifts, **we thank you for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are unhoused. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. dAmen.**

Ways to give -

- Venmo @ZionFerndale (confirmation code 7498)
- Vanco mobile app (code VHLXGH)
- www.zionlutheranmi.org
- Offering plate located in the middle of the center aisle
- Mail to church mailing address

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

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

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 Savior 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.**

Holy One, remember us in your reign and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

Distribution

Zion welcomes and encourages those of all faith backgrounds to communion. We believe that the death and resurrection of Christ makes us all worthy and needing of the sacrament regardless of background, age or any other factor.

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Hymn 338

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day,
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness,
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Now may this the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace, now and forever. **Amen.**

On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,
 that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.
 Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
 is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Pastor: By the grace of God we seek the courage to walk the final steps with Christ through his unjust conviction and lawless crucifixion. Our hearts shift from the “Hosannas” to “God, have mercy”. We enter this Holy Week in humility, with the cross of Christ before us and the power of the Spirit at our backs.

Gospel - Matthew 27:11-31

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O God.**

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone

whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Gospel of the Living One. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Charge & Benediction

Pastor: Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus. Look not at outer appearances, be they humble or grand, but at the heart, to see and serve the child of God that lies in each one of us. Listen to the word of God, and believe. Go in peace, assured of God’s presence with you, with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide, and constant companionship of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude

Scott Schroeder

Today's Worship Leaders:

Assistant Minister: Cecelia Mac-Smith

Lector: Max Spayde

Cantor: Randi Hamilton

Cross Bearer: Jude Belasco

Juniors Teacher: n/a (Spring Break)

Staff:

The Rev. Matthew Bode, Pastor

Office Manager: Stacey Jamison

Custodian: Anthony Bailey

Chancel Choir Director: Roger Smith

Organist: Scott Schroeder

Juniors Music Ministry: Stacey Jamison

Tech Ministry: George Stuteville

Zion Council/Lay Leadership:

Emily Corey, President

Natalie Melnick, Vice President

Cecelia Mac-Smith, Secretary

Dagmar Jones, Treasurer

Brian Griffin

Mark Jones

Ann McChesney

Matt Northcott

Jackie Oliver

Michael Weiszbrod