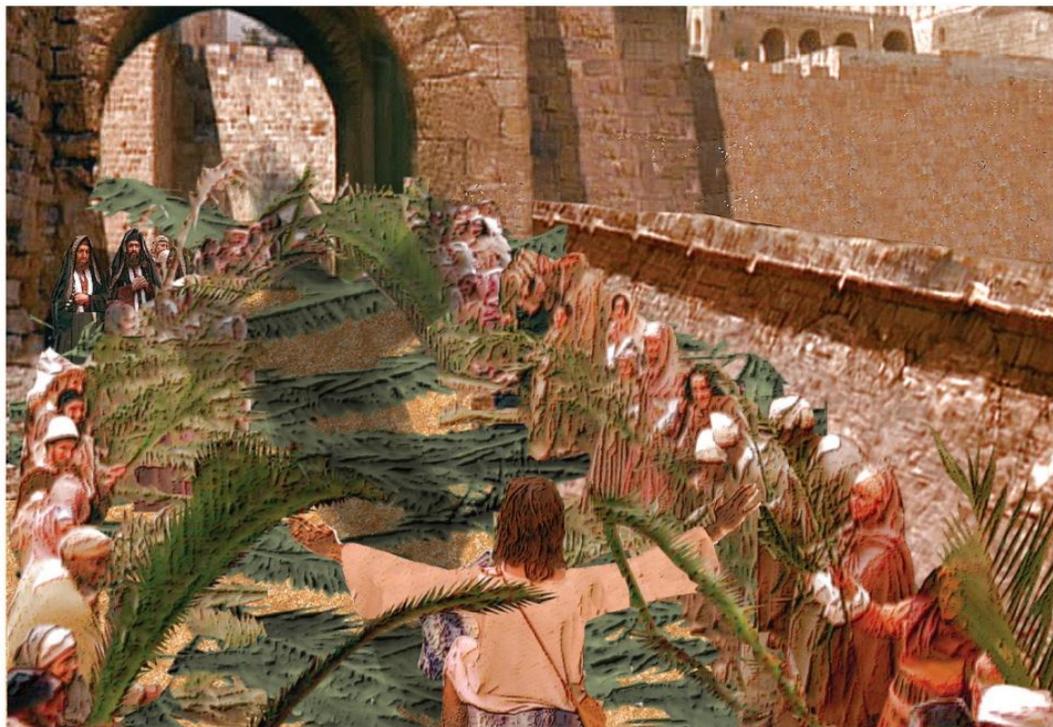


The crowds ... shouted,



“Hosanna to  
the Son of David!”

Matthew 21:9

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
March 29, 2026

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870  
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com  
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

**Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor**

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**March 29, 2026**

**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

Welcome to Worship! 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.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

We thank Linda Stauffer for sharing her gift of music with us today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Choir Prelude

*"The Palms"* Jean Baptiste Faure

Public Domain

Bell

*Please stand if you are able*

**Call to worship**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**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, saying,

<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.”

### **Blessing of Palms**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

### **Procession**

Let us go forth in peace,

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn**

*“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

**ELW 344**

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635 Public Domain

## Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

2 The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

1 You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

3 The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. *Refrain*

5 Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## Lenten Wreath

*“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”*

ELW 337

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824 Public Domain

During the singing of “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” we sing all verses, as the last candle on the Lenten wreath is extinguished. Our space becomes a little darker as we journey together toward the Passion of Christ.

1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
and did my sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head  
for sinners such as I?

2 Was it for sins that I had done  
he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
and love beyond degree!

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide  
and shut its glories in  
when God, the mighty maker, died  
for his own creatures' sin.

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
while his dear cross appears,  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
and melt my eyes to tears.

5 But tears of grief cannot repay  
the debt of love I owe;

here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'tis all that I can do.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**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 if you are able*

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

A reading from Isaiah.

*This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.*

<sup>4</sup>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.

<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 up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 31:9-16 (Read responsively)

*Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

<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 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 upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.”**

## Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

*Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of 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.

The word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated*

## **Gospel: The Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew**

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand if you are able*

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Let us confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of stress.

**O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us, and we turn against you; too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you. Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

The good news of Christ is this; when we face the brokenness within ourselves and present our needs before God, we are given grace to grow and courage to continue the journey of faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**Amen**

### **Prayers of the people:**

**Response:** Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

### **Choir Offering**

*“The Cross Was His Own”*

Edward Broughton

©1990 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

*Please stand if you are able*

### **Offertory**

*“Take My Life, That I May Be”*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870 Public Domain

1 Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## **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. 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.**

## **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.**

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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 and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

*Please be seated*

### Distribution



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### Distribution Hymn

*“Were You There”*

ELW 353

African American spiritual Arr. ©1999 Augsburg Fortress

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the  
side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the  
side?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the  
side?

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

## Distribution Hymn

*“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

ELW 338

Text: Elizabeth C Clephane, 1830–1869 Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927 Public Domain

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;

content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

*Please stand*

## Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His care.

**Amen**

## Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

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.**

## Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen**

## Sending Hymn

*“Christ the Life of All the Living”*

ELW 339

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687 Public Domain

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, yourself for me once giving  
to the darkest depths of woe:  
through your suffering, death, and merit  
life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.
- 2 You have suffered great affliction  
and have borne it patiently,  
even death by crucifixion,  
fully to atone for me;  
for you chose to be tormented  
that my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.
- 3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,  
for the sorrows deep and sore,  
for the anguish in the garden,  
I will thank you evermore;

thank you for the groaning, sighing,  
for the bleeding and the dying,  
for that last triumphant cry,  
praise you evermore on high.

## Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*“Christ the Life of All the Living”*

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687 Public Domain

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St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church is:

***“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”***

**And a congregation of the**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

## PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

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Attendance:

Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

**2026 The Year of the Way of Love.** Welcome to 2026: The Way of Love! This year for our annual theme, we will be grounded in 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us."

**Council asks the congregation to pray** for those families coming to us as new members on April 26th, that they may find a welcoming spiritual home as they join the St. John's family.

### **Communion Clean-up today: Sue and Lynn Schlessman**

April 5 – Set-up –	Cleanup –
12 – Set-up –	Cleanup –
19 – Set-up –	Cleanup –
26 – Set-up –	Cleanup –

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

**The Easter Giving Tree is back!!** The Faith Life Team needs your help in gathering items to fill Easter baskets for the Domestic Violence Shelter. Please take one or several tags to help with this giving ministry. Your items need to be returned by **March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

**New Members:** We will be welcoming new members on April 26.

**Greeting Cards Available:** Are you in need of a greeting card? Handmade greetings are available at the back of the sanctuary. The donations from your purchases will go to

## Holy Week Worship Opportunities

March 29 - Palm Sunday Worship - 10:30 am

April 2 – Maundy Thursday Joint Worship – 7:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Huron with celebration of Holy Communion

April 3 – Good Friday Joint Worship at St. John’s – 6:30 pm

## Easter Sunday Schedule:

Easter Sunday, April 5

Easter Breakfast – 9:00 am

Easter egg hunt will be held for the youth at 9:45 am.

Easter Worship at 10:30 am with Holy Communion.

**Note: only one service will be held on Easter morning.**

**Happy Birthday** to Heather Ruggles.

## ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> THRU APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>

Sunday, March 29	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship
Wednesday, April 1	12:00 noon 5:30 pm	Scripture and Prayer at Parkvue Choir Practice
Thursday, April 2	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship at Zion
Friday, April 3	6:30 pm	Good Friday Worship at St. John’s
Sunday, April 5	9:00 am 9:45 am 10:30 am	Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt Easter Worship
Tuesday, April 7	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Sunday, April 12	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship