



St John's

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

- ❖ We are glad you are worshiping with us! If you're a visitor, please enter your name in the guestbook near the entrance and our pastor will reach out to you.
- ❖ A printed cross † is an invitation to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or body. We make the sign of the cross to remember our Baptism and the promise: *"You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."*
- ❖ **Bold print** indicates a speaking part for the whole assembly.
- ❖ Restrooms are located in the Narthex to the right of the front door and through the doors behind the choir to the left.
- ❖ A nursery is available for your use. Ask an usher for directions.
- ❖ Today's liturgy is **Setting Ten** from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the people of St. John's.

Altar flowers are a meaningful way to glorify God and honor loved ones in worship. A gift of \$75 to the St. John's Flower Fund is encouraged. To sponsor altar flowers, please contact the church office.

HOLY COMMUNION

- ❖ *You are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please come forward during the distribution with your arms crossed.*
- ❖ **Please note: The homemade communion bread is gluten, dairy, and nut free.** *If you prefer a wafer, please indicate by raising a finger as you approach the pastor.*
- ❖ *Grape juice, instead of wine, is also available.*

PRAYER LIST

We invite you to join us in prayer for members and friends of St. John's. A printed prayer list is available in the Narthex and is emailed each morning at 4:30 a.m. in the *Daily Cycle of Prayer*.

*To add a name, please submit a request through our website or contact the church office.
Scan the QR code below to view the current list.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

We will celebrate Holy Week at St. John's with 7pm Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary, 7pm Good Friday worship in the sanctuary, and 8pm Easter Vigil worship outside and in the sanctuary. On Easter Sunday, we will hold a 7am sunrise service and our usual 10am festival worship service in the sanctuary. For questions, reach out to Pastor Matt.

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

I apologize to the Herring family for accidentally omitting them in the 2026 Directory. All newly printed copies of the church directory will include Mike, Johnny, Dan, Chandler, and Chace. For other corrections, please reach out to me and I will ensure our records are updated. *-Pastor Matt*

‡ GATHERING ‡

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We begin today's service outside the sanctuary.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

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

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 bear them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we may 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.**

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Beginning with the first verse, we process into the sanctuary waving palms.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW #344

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.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem in humility to suffer and to save; keep us steadfast in faith, that, trusting in your mercy alone, we may follow him through the way of the cross to the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Children are invited to come forward for a conversation with the pastor.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The 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.

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;

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?

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

PSALM 31:9-16

We read a portion of Psalm 31 responsively.

9 Be gracious to me, O LORD, 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.**

11 I 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.**

13 For 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 LORD;
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.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

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.

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

Hosanna, Hosanna

Martin & Williams

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This 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.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!”

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

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church, we 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 THE PEOPLE

Lord God in humility and reverence we offer you our prayers, be swift to answer them we beg as we say,
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, the world waits for your Good News. Be present to all who turn to you, strengthen those who fail or hesitate, come into our lives each day, and give us hearts and greet you with joy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We call those who follow you, "the church" – and we have surrounded these faithful people with buildings, ministries, hierarchies, rubrics, headaches, heartaches and deep joy. Remind us that we need only You and one another. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give your grace to this nation, to our leaders, to our public servants and to our health care workers and first responders. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind us of just how connected we are and how much we need each other. We offer our deepest prayers for the recovery of the human family, that we might form a sustainable way of life for the well-being of the people of the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort us. Comfort all people. And strengthen us for the days to come. [Especially we pray for...prayer list.] Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We mourn those who have died and left this world. Bless the departed with eternal light and joy when the day of new life comes. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We are entering into a Holy Week stripped bare of its usual patterns and rhythms. Give us the will to use this time to draw closer to you and your Son as we consider the meaning and the unbelievable truth of his passion and death this week, that we might live deeper into the radical offering of love that was the passion of Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Prepare the Way

Price & Besig

OFFERING

You may give online, by visiting www.stjohnsconcord.com/give or by texting "give" to (704) 706-2115.

OFFERING SONG

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW #885

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The first staff covers the first line, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line and ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. **Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *(continued)*

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

As our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say: **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.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 10



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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. 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

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

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."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Agnus Dei

Bizet

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Matt Hansen *Pastor*

Ellen Goodman *Assisting Minister*

Catherine Ritch *Director of Music*

Patti Fletcher *Lector*

Rathel & Ellen Goodman *Communion Assistants*

Jimmy Lentz, Carl Walker, Brandon Fletcher, Brad Cress *Ushers*

Hartsell Family *Livestream Support*

Kevin & Lisa Edwards *Nursery Attendants*

Jim & Susan Hayes *Altar Guild*

Annette Herring *Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

Church Office (704) 436-6081 *(Please leave a voice message)*

ONLINE

Office Email office@stjohnsconcord.com

Bulletin Announcement Email announcements@stjohnsconcord.com

ON-SITE

Address 100 St. John's Church Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church Office Hours Mon-Fri, 9am to Noon

Pastor Matt's Office Hours Mon-Thu, *by appointment*.

↔ *Please note: Pastor Matt observes Sabbath every Friday* ↔

The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church is to share God's love through revitalization, community, and outreach.

