



Palm Sunday

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 Fourth Street Northeast
Valley City, North Dakota

Pastor: Jamie Desai

Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

9:30am worship service

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME!

It is good to encounter Christ together. At Faith Lutheran we rise up to:

Worship Christ, Welcome All, and Serve Others because of Jesus.

A special welcome to visitors and guests! May God bless our time together as we celebrate Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the Word of God, and the community we share. Please fill out a welcome card if you have changes: address, phone number, prayer request. Break off the bottom half to place in the offering plate; keep the top as a bookmark and a reminder of worship times.

*Indicates those who are able, please stand. (ELW - Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal)
Prelude

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL READING—**Luke 19:28-40** (read responsively)

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying,

“Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.”

Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he road along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered,

“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

*PROCESSION OF PALMS

Preschool-6th Grade Children

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” vs 1-4

ELW 344

Accompanied by Faith Lutheran Handbell Choir

♪♪ CHILDREN SING ♪♪
“Cloaks and Branches”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION OF SIN

God of palm branches and hallelujahs:

We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.

We love the sound of a joyful parade. We love shouting, “Hallelujah!”

We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.

We love good news.

However, if we slow down and pay attention, we know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.

There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence. You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire, and the whole world knew it.

Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took. Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage,

And even we can do hard things. With hope we pray. Amen.

SONG OF MERCY “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” vs 1,4 ELW 588

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

As children of God the Father and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you; you are an accepted, forgiven and loved child of God.

I am an accepted, forgiven and loved Child of God!

SONG OF PRAISE “Prepare the Royal Highway” vs 1-3 ELW 264

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of mercy and might, **in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING—**Psalm 31:9-16** (read responsively)

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

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.

Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

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.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, “You are my God.

My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love.”

*Gospel Acclamation

“Hear Our Prayer”

ELW 178

Luke’s Passion Story

Luke 22:63-23:49 (read responsively)

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us.” He replied,

“If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

All of them asked, “Are you, then, the Son of God?” He said to them,

“You say that I am.”

Then they said,

“What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.” Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

He answered, “You say so.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.” But they were insistent and said, “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer.

The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

“Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”

But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.

So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

SONG

“Jesus, Remember Me” (twice)

ELW 616

As they led him away, they seized a man Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

**(speaking) Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ELW pg. 130

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 134

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION - We welcome all the baptized to the meal celebrating the new life we have in Christ Jesus. Come forward as the ushers direct. Please take a cup for communion from the center boxes as you come forward. Start at the middle and fill to the sides. Gluten-free wafers are available. Young children will receive a grape and a blessing. Place your empty cups in the boxes. If you wish to refrain from communion, God knows your heart.

Communion Hymns:

"Eat This Bread"

ELW 472

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

ELW 347

"Were You There"

ELW 353

"You Are My All in All" (chorus)

see screen

*BENEDICTION

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. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

ELW 339

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Okay we will!**

POSTLUDE

We depart to serve the Lord

Serving Today

Greeter: Teagan Klevgaard
Ushers: Seth Auka, Mikkal Auka
Lector: Paula Thomsen
Acolyte: Joey Sayler
Kitchen: Mikkal & Wanda Auka,
 Troy & Jodi Miller, Scott & Amy Johnson
Keyboard & Vocals: Cyndi Hill
Vocals: Julie May
Hand Bell Choir: Erin Heide (director), Allison Anderson,
 Barb Baasch, Jere Heide, Amy Johnson, Erin Metcalf,
 Julie Moritz, Val Moritz, Mary Stearns

Attendance

Attendance: 3/22 127 57+ online
 3/25 (Lent) 52 4+ online

Offering: 3/1 \$3,307.00
 3/8 \$6,086.00
 3/15 \$4,007.00
 3/22 \$3,798.00

Mission Plan monthly
 \$24,295.67

The Week Ahead: March 30-April 5, 2026

Monday, March 30

Pastor's Sabbath

Tuesday, March 31

10:30am - Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 1

No Youth Activities

1:00pm - Quilters

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday

1st Communion Received

5:30pm - Meal Served (freewill)

6:30pm - Service w/Holy
Communion

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

Office Closed

12:00pm - Community Good

Friday Service at Our Savior's

6:30pm - Tenabrae Service at FLC

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday

9:30am - Easter Worship Service

10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

11:00am - Easter Worship Service

Holy Week Schedule



April 2—Maundy Thursday—1st Communion receive at **6:30pm.** service. Meal served 5:30-6:15pm.

April 3—Good Friday—Community Service at Our Savior's, **12:00pm.**

Tenabrae Service at Faith at **6:30pm.**

April 5—Easter Sunday—Service at **9:30am** and **11:00am.**

Announcements

Stop in the fellowship hall for a cup of coffee or juice and a treat served at 10:30am following worship. It is good to enjoy each other's company and conversation.



Our sympathies to Nancy Knutson & family. Nancy's brother, **Mike Knutson**, died on Monday, March 23, 2026. His Celebration of Life arrangements are pending.

Our sympathies to Mike & Vicki Metcalf, Ryan & Erin Metcalf & family. Mike's father & Ryan's grandfather, **Ralph Metcalf**, died on Saturday, March 21, 2026. His funeral was held Saturday, March 28.



Easter Egg Hunt! The kids 6th grade and under have fun searching for Easter Eggs at 10:45am! Wendi will have the kids gather in the sanctuary and let them know how the Easter Egg Hunt will go. Thank you to everyone who brought candy for the eggs and the Kids Club for stuffing the eggs!

A reminder—no youth activities Wednesday, April 1st since it is Holy Week. No Sunday School Easter Sunday, April 5.



The office will be closed Friday, April 5 and closed Monday, April 6 in observance of Easter.



We will put the names of your loved ones in the Easter bulletin.

WELCA will be collecting items for **Personal Health Kits** for Lutheran World Relief through Lent.

Items for the health kits are:

1 - **light weight bath towel** (between 20"x40" & 52"x27"), dark

1 - **adult size toothbrush** in it's original packaging*

1 - **metal fingernail clipper**, remove packaging

1 - **sturdy comb**, remove packaging

2 or 3 **bath-size bars of soap**, 8 or 9 oz in original wrapping

*Multi-pack Toothbrushes may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

A container is in the gathering area for these items.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Faith Lutheran. Your contributions support the missions and ministries of Faith Lutheran as well as monthly expenses of the church. If you have set up your giving electronically on our website:

www.faithlutheranvc.org, we do have cards that you may place in the offering plates that say you give electronically.



Thrivent Choice Dollars ® —Thrivent Financial members the deadline to direct your 2025 Choice Dollars expires on **March 31st**. Go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 to make your choices for your Choice Dollars. Thank you everyone who designates their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran! In 2025 Faith Lutheran received \$1,697.

We do have ear buds available for people who are hard of hearing and would like to use them to hear the service better. Talk to the sound person and they will set you up.



LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

SMP Health - St. Raphael:—Marlys Freadhoff; Ruby Hansen; Mark Hill; Diane Kohn; Paula Krall; Arlene Larson; Laurette Zachrison.

General Prayer List:—Anita Scholz; Marlys Kunze;

Karla Ranisate; Maureen Walch (Karen Nitschke's sister); Doug Kratz; Verlynn Christianson; Lee Ann Peterson; Angela Rohde (Jake Rohde's mother); Don & Kathy Burke; Amanda Spencer (Karen Nitschke's granddaughter); Scott & Kay Stanford; Bob Green; Mackenzie Schram (Becky Kratz' niece); Nancy Knutson; Jake Archambeau (Karen Nitschke's nephew); Linda Moser; Mary Buringrud; Bea Faust; Samuel Hill (Cyndi & Mark Hill's grandson); Doug Altringer; Mary Schram (Becky Kratz' mother).

Contact Info

Office phone: 701-845-4390

Office Email: office@faithlutheranvc.org

Wendi Wilmes - Coordinator of Youth and Sunday School Ministry -

Email - wendi.wilmes@gmail.com

Website: www.faithlutheranvc.org

Facebook Page: Faith Lutheran Church Valley City

YouTube Channel: [vcfaithlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfaithlutheran)

Tenabrae Service (Good Friday)

Tenabrae Service is traditionally held during Holy Week particularly on Good Friday. It is characterized by a gradual extinguishing of candles, symbolizing the darkness that enveloped Christ during His crucifixion. The service includes readings from Psalms and Gospels, and concludes with a loud noise representing the chaos following Christ's death. Tenabrae serves as a solemn reflection on the events of Christ's Passion, inviting believers to meditate on His sacrifice and the hope of resurrection.