



Sunday, March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
P.O. Box 202, 183 William Street
Portland, CT 06480
860-342-2860
www.zionlutheranportland.org
email: zion.lutheran@snet.net

HOLY COMMUNION

Setting four

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

This morning, those who would like, are invited to gather outdoors, weather permitting. If the weather is inclement, we will gather in the lounge (overflow into the narthex).

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Hosanna in the highest.

GOSPEL READING: **Matthew 21:1-11**

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.”

BLESSING OF THE 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.**

We process into the sanctuary.

HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW 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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Welcome, in the name of Christ. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

WORD

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

ELW 339

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally (here local bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers may be named). Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy iniquity 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for (Hans Nielsen Hauge and) all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Amen.

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

GREAT THANKSGIVING

pg. 152

Please kneel or sit

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right...

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

pg. 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Please be seated

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

“You Were There”

ELW 353

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW 338

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

SENDING HYMN "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" **ELW 327**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

READERS SERVING TODAY

Narrator: Michelle Schneider

Jesus: Rick Borg

Judas: Deb Gustafson

Peter: Paula Brown

High Priest: Pauline Neumann

Maid: Rosa Perez

Another Maid: Geri Ristow

Pilate: Don Roche

SERVING TODAY

Donna Cote - Lector

Peter Willse - Worship Assistant

Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan

- Ushers/Greeters

Pauline Neumann - Altar Guild

Sarah Dzialo - Organist

Music and liturgy reprinted with permission.: The liturgy as well as liturgical music are reproduced with Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual; Copyright license number: SB145364; esp. April 30, 2026. Other music and hymns are reprinted with permission under OneLicense Annual. Copyright License Number: A-728003. All rights reserved. Exp November 2026

Prayer List

For Health:	Bud J	Stacey T	David O
Joyce G	Marjorie F	Pat J	Michael G
Bill B	Jessica A	Lois B	
Cathy L	Charlotte D	Loee M	For Safety:
Marion B	Jonathan A	Alexis R	Andrew C
Lily V	Pauline N	Malynda A	Todd S
Holly N	Curt R	Annamaria T	Michael C
Dylan G	Matthew S	Brenda B	Tyler G
Lisa A	Joan A	Lee T	Erik B
Aiden J	Diane E	Judi E	Justin Earl B
Helen A	Dick C	Jamie S-R	Evan G
Matthew A	Karen R	Don R	David P



A new group is forming at Zion—**Men of Zion Lutheran**. Jerry Peuse plans to get the new group off the ground after Easter. The men will discuss and work on church projects and service projects around town. He asks that you call him at 860-894-2880 if you are interested, so he can plan the first meeting. Then it will be decided what time/day works for most men. **Even if you have already spoken to him at church, please call and remind him.**

Jerry has extensive knowledge, experience and talent from 25 years as a professional handyman and many years serving on Lutheran Men's Groups over the years (once as president). He looks forward to hearing from you.



Life Line Screening will be here at Zion on **Tuesday, April 28th** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you would like to register for an appointment call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC

Today: March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

6:30 p.m. Swedish Cemetery Finance Meeting

Tuesday: **9:00 a.m.** Pastor's Conference - Hartford

9:00 a.m.-noon Happy Handz

Thursday: **6:00 p.m.** Maundy Thursday service

Friday: **6:00 p.m.** Good Friday service

7:00 p.m. N/A

Next Sunday: April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church



Attendance: Last week - 62; Last year - 57

Next weeks readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29th at **9:00 a.m.**

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at **6:00 p.m.**— **in the Chapel**

Good Friday Service, April 3rd at **6:00 p.m.**

Easter Sunday, April 5th at **9:00 a.m.**