

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and presiding this day: Pastor Todd Bertani

Church Website: smlcestes.org

Office Email: secretary@smlcestes.org 970-586-3900

Pastoral Care: Pastor Todd Bertani, 707-688-6411

Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors.



*Please remain in the Narthex for the reading of the Gospel.
We will process in together, with palms, during the entry hymn*

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Julie Varilek, Accompanist

Prelude: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" arr. by Larry Shackley

and "O Jesus, Thou Art Standing" arr. by Gilbert M. Martin

Piano duets by Julie Varilek and Ann Knipping

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

*To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in **bold**. Please know that we are all guests at God's table.*

***Liturgy:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003178. **Scripture:** Quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. **Music:** Reprinted / streamed with permission under Sunday & Seasons.com #SAS003178 and/or ONE LICENSE #A-707376. All rights reserved.*

Welcome and Introduction: Pastor Todd Bertani

Matthew 21:1-11

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.”

Please enter the sanctuary singing:

Entry Hymn: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" Hymn 344 (remain standing)

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.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Prayer of the Day

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 Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel: Matthew 21:12-22

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer,'
but you are making it a den of robbers."

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them.

¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?'"

¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there. ¹⁸In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹

And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. ²⁰When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?"

²¹Jesus answered them, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. ²²Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

(You may be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani



Sermon Notes:

Sermon Hymn: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" Hymn 707



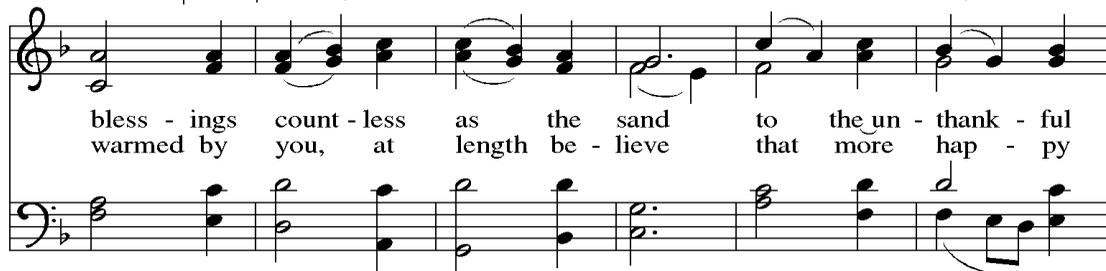
1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,



bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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 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.**

Intercessory Prayer

Each petition ends: "Hear us, O God."

Response is "**Your mercy is great.**"

Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering

Online
Giving



Offertory: “Palm Sunday Hosanna” *arr. by Joel Raney*
Chuck Varilek, accompanying on flute

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Receiving of Gifts

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.

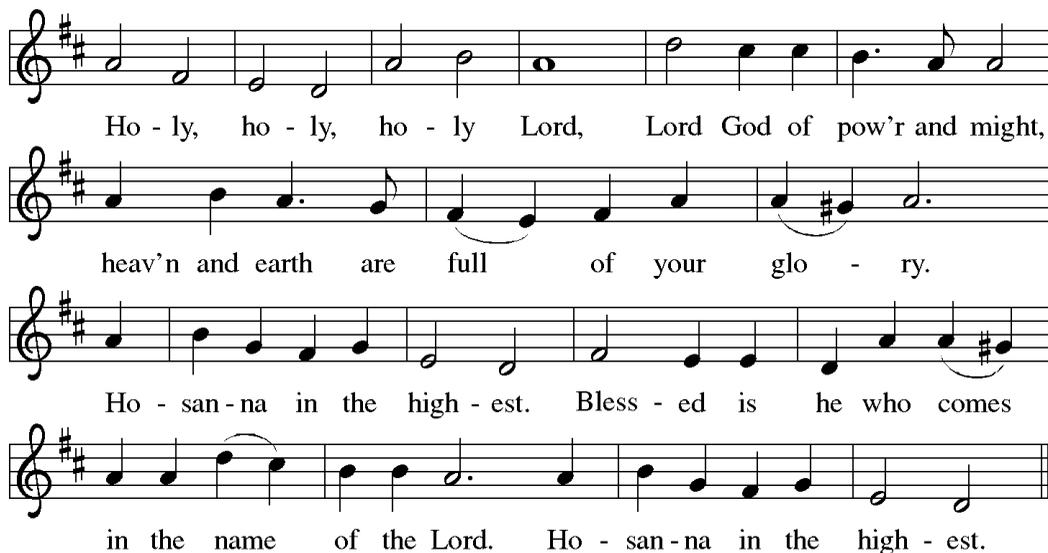
Preface

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.



Thanksgiving at the Table

(Those online, are invited to lift their communion elements, with the Pastor.)

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

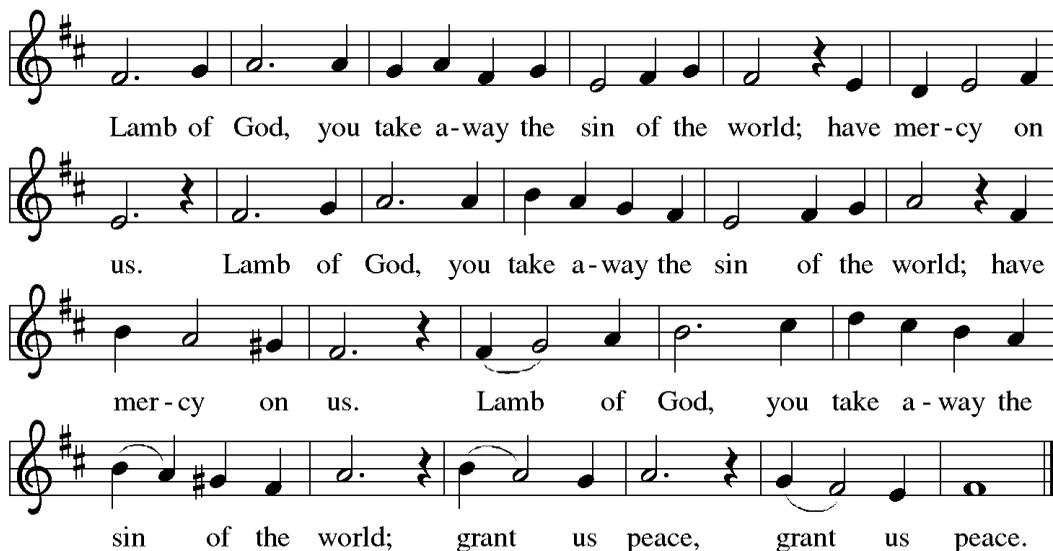
Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.
We are all guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(At this time, those online, may partake in communion.)

(The congregation may be seated)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" *Hymn 789*



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

Ministry Calendar

THIS WEEK

***March 29—Sunday: 1st Qtr Offering—Going to Crossroads. All gifts given today will
be matched by a donor from Crossroads.***

March 29—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John chapters 11 and 12)

10:30 a.m.: **Bible Study: "Defining Moments in the Gospel of John"**
Led by Robbi Telfer

April 01—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)
3:00 p.m.: Choir

April 02—Maundy Thursday:

4:30 p.m.: Service

Quilters, please note: No Quilting until April 16

April 03—Good Friday:

12:00 p.m.: Service (taking place here, with St. Bart's)

April 04—Easter Vigil:

6:30 p.m.: Service (taking place at St. Bart's)

April 05—Easter:

9:00 a.m.: Service of Celebration

Followed by Easter Brunch

FOLLOWING WEEK

Please note: The week following Easter, the Pastor will be out of the office, on vacation.

April 07—Tuesday:

9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: PEO HF

April 08—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

4:00 p.m.: Choir—NOTE THE NEW TIME

April 10—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Service at Good Sam

April 11—Saturday:

1:30 p.m.: Girl's Time Out, here at the church

April 12—Sunday:

9:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship. Supply Pastor Chuck Hubbard
Pastor Todd will be on vacation.

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, [†] Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" *Hymn 858*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” *arr. By Gilbert M. Martin*

<i>Thank you for serving!</i>	
	<i>March 29</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Julie Varilek
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping
<i>Lector:</i>	Linda Schlitt
<i>Ushers:</i>	Steve Thorn Mike Wold
<i>Tellers:</i>	OPEN, OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Tara McConnell
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	Heidi Schweikart OPEN, OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Robbi Telfer
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	Paula Stensvaag