



He humbled Himself
to death on a cross

KUEKER 01

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

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Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Robert Wagner by his Family.

If anyone wants to donate non-perishable items to the Food Pantry, you can bring them the first Sunday of each month. They will be given to the Salvation Army.

The family of Walter Schimpf will be hosting a cookie reception on April 12 for his many years of singing in the choir. The congregation is invited to stay after worship to help celebrate.

Our Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion will be at 7 PM on April 2. Offering will be given to LifeWise.

Good Friday worship will be at 7 PM on April 3.

Easter Breakfast will be held April 5 at 8:30 AM.

Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 5 following worship. Children up to grade 5 are welcome to participate.

Thank you to Susie Sutherland for making new coverings for the Lenten cross.

Thank you to all who donated cookies and those who came to help frost them at Carlisle House.

God Squad

Giving for The Lord's Ministry March 22, 2026

Bell Choir	25.00
Benevolence	175.00
Current	3,264.00
Feed Crawford County	225.00
Filling Home	55.00
God Squad	10.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	30.00
Missionary	80.00
NALC Seminary	110.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	115.00
Special Projects	120.00
Total	\$4,209.00
Attendance 111	
 Lent Service 3/18	 \$709.00
Attendance 52	

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon.** If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM
Monday	Dartball Banquet at Holy Trinity
Thursday	Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion 7 PM
Friday	Good Friday Worship 7 PM
Sunday	Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM Easter Sunday/Communion Worship 10 AM Children's Easter Egg Hunt after worship

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

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Let Him Be Crucified!

A blessed Holy Week to you! This was a day of hosannas, but how quickly that changed. The palm-branch wavers turned into an ugly mob, crying out, "Crucify Him!" Let us never grow tired of hearing of our Lord's Passion. Commit this day to hearing the entire Passion story each Palm Sunday.

The joyful occasion of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey with palm branches waving and laid before Him is short. Jesus was put on trial and handed over to be put to death shortly after this joyful processional. The charges against Him were made up. The witnesses lied. It was a kangaroo court! Jesus' death was not in vain. He died for us, for our forgiveness and eternal life. By faith, we cling to Jesus, "the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend! (LSB 430:7). Amen.

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PORTALS of PRAYER

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About the Cover: Christ came to us in humility, taking the form of an obedient servant. On Palm Sunday, He again came in humility, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Then, the ultimate sign of His humility was shown on Good Friday. Paradoxically, it was His being lifted up on the cross that was the greatest sign of His glory and exaltation. It is through His death on the cross that Christ has won for us the forgiveness of sins. This alone is the power of God for salvation for all who believe (see 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16). We proclaim today, "Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).





Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you have sent your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross, that all of humanity should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Processional Gospel: John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The LORD God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵The LORD God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷But the LORD God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ^{9a}Behold, the LORD God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm 118:19-29

¹⁹Open for me the | gates of righteousness;*

I will enter them; I will offer thanks | to the LORD.

²⁰**“This is the gate | of the LORD;***

he who is | righteous may enter.”

²¹I will give thanks to you, for you | answered me*
and have become | my salvation.

²²**The same stone which the build- | ers rejected***
has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³This is | the LORD’s doing,*
and it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴**On this day the | LORD has acted;***
we will rejoice and be | glad in it.

²⁵Hosannah, | LORD, hosannah!*

LORD, send us | now success.

²⁶**Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the LORD;***
we bless you from the house | of the LORD.

²⁷God is the LORD; he has | shined upon us;*
form a procession with branches up to the horns | of the altar.

²⁸**“You are my God, and | I will thank you;***
you are my God, and I | will exalt you.”

²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*
his mercy en- | dures forever.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: Matthew 26:1-27:66 (vv. 26:38-27:66 omitted here due to space constraints)

¹When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.” ⁶Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.” ¹⁴Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. ¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

“Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”
¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.²¹And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?”²³He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.”²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you,²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.³¹Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’³²But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”³³Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”³⁴Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”³⁵Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Lessons for Next Week:

Easter Sunrise: Exodus 14:10-15:1; Psalm 118:15-29; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18
Easter Day: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 16; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

For the Strength of the Spirit

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life. We thank you for filling us with your strength. Empower our witness so that we boldly share the truth with others in Christian love and service, at every time and in every place we are given the opportunity. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Palm Sunday

Holy God, inspire your church to lives of faithfulness, boldness, and compassion; so that, through its witness, many may join it in singing, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!" Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Care of Creation

God of goodness, all creation proclaims your glory; open our eyes to see your power and majesty in the detailed beauty of our world, and open our hearts to be gently caretakers of the earth. Let the glory of creation be a testimony to your power and greatness, that we may live in praise and awe each day. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Remembrance of the Faithful Departed

We give thanks, everlasting Father, for your servants who have departed this life in faith and now share the joys of your heavenly kingdom. We humbly ask that, with them, we may live in Christ and die in him, and at the last awaken in his likeness in the resurrection to life everlasting. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.