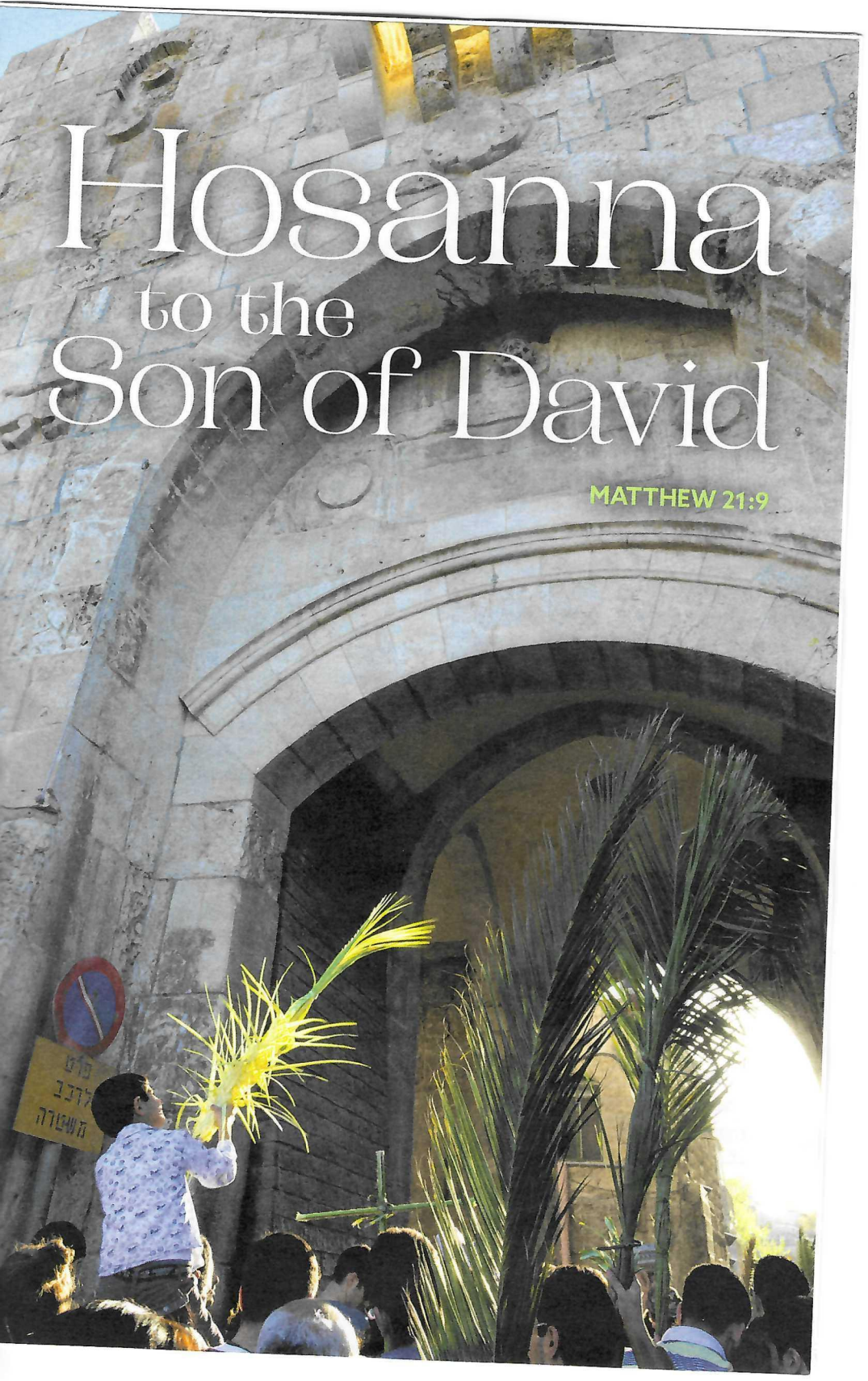


Hosanna to the Son of David

MATTHEW 21:9



חסי
לקוב
משפחה

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Palm/Passion Sunday ✠ March 29, 2026

*Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able.

Congregation responses are printed in **bold print**.

Liturgy and hymns are in the green hymnal unless indicated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"The Palms"* by Jean Baptiste Fauré, arranged by Lani Smith

PROCESSION WITH PALMS 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 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."

***HYMN** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" P. 108 Youth will process into the church.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Spoken in unison.

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. Amen.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers us in the righteousness of Christ and forgives our sin in Jesus' name. May the Spirit give us strength to live for others and bless us with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The 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. ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear, I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶ I 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. ⁷ The 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? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms: 31:9-16

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹ 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.

¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵ My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN VERSE

Spoken in unison.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after

flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸ Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” ⁴⁴ The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. ⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” ⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

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

CHILDREN SINGING

CHILDREN'S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" P. 26

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. *And also with you.*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Pastorale" by Carl Simone.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

*SENDING HYMN "Go to Dark Gethsemane" P. 109

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

POSTLUDE "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" a traditional African-American spiritual, arranged by Anna Laura Page

Website: [HTTPS://www.thefriedenslutheran.com](https://www.thefriedenslutheran.com)

Church e-mail: friedenslutheran4@gmail.com

Designated Pastor: Pastor Lee A. Diefenderfer, 1295 Red Dale Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, 610-858-4136

Council President: Ed Tietsworth, (570) 292-1061 **Worship time – 10:30 AM**

Calendar

Today, Pastor Barry Spatz, Palm/Passion Sunday with children singing
April 5, Pastor Barry Spatz, Easter Sunday w/ Holy Communion. Breakfast, 8–10 AM.

Announcements

4/1/2026 – Worship & Music Mtg. 7:00 PM.

4/2/2026 – Maundy Thursday Service, Trinity Lutheran, at 7:00 PM.

4/3/2026 – Good Friday service, United Church of Christ, Fountain, at 7 PM.

4/3/2026 – Ministerium Cross-Walk, St. Andrews, 12:15 PM. Easter Egg Hunt, 5:30 PM, Friedens Church. Those helping to dye and fill eggs be at the church @ 4:00 PM.

4/8/2026 – Council Mtg., 6:00 PM.

Prayer Corner

Darlene Gibson; Rick Herring; Kim Schwartz; Bill Howerter; David Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Misty Rice; Rosanne Burke; Saralynn Grantz Linda, Lee & Jared Kiefer; Sympathy for the family and friends of Eric Scheib; Palmer Geist; Greg Readinger.

Today's Leaders - Service. Pastor Barry Spatz Lector, Ann Miller Organist, Harold Morgan Counters, Christy Leiter, Melody Schwartz Head Usher, Ed Teitsworth Ushers, Michael Allvord, Scott Allvord, Mike Deiter Greeters, Cindy & Rick Herring and Joan Smith.

Attendance: (3/22/26) 43	Offering – Current	\$1,352.00
	Other	\$20.00
	Total	\$1,372.00

Ministerium Lenten Service, 3/25/2026 – Attendance, 52. Plate Offering, \$329.00.

Volunteers 4/5/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz, with Holy Communion Lector, TBD Lay Assistant, Ron Radel Counters, Ann Miller, Vicki Troutman Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers, Mike Deiter, Dave Henninger, Rodney Troutman Greeters, Peggy Hand & Damaris Merwine

First Communion Classes – We are seeking third graders, eight-year-olds, to see if there is a need for a first communion class. If you have a child or grandchild who would like to attend, text me (610-858-4136) or let me know in person. Pastor Diefenderfer.

Thrivent - If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to direct, they need to be directed by March 31st.

Thank You - A big THANK YOU to all who had helped with the 2026 Spring Bazaar. We had a wonderful selection of delicious homemade soups, baked goods and crafts. Plus, the Hoagie Sale portion was a great team effort. Our church is so blessed to have such an amazing congregation who can work together to hold such a successful event.

His Blood Be on Us

Today we begin Holy Week, a week filled with paradoxes, reversals, and ironic twists. The story moves inevitably toward death, yet it brings the promise of life. Jesus appears to be the victim, but he chooses this path, humbling himself, confident that God will exalt him in victory. Pilate embodies the full might of the Roman Empire but is powerless before the crowd's demands. The chief priests and elders, perhaps more than anyone else, should recognize the long-hoped-for Messiah, but their jealousy prevents this.

Perhaps the greatest irony in today's Passion reading is found in the crowd's exclamation, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). These words have been misused to slander the Jewish people, claiming they bear the guilt of Christ's blood. Superficially, that is what the crowd means: Pilate refuses responsibility, so the people take it upon themselves. Theologically, though, the crowd speaks a universal truth. Far from justifying anti-Jewish scapegoating, these words apply to all humanity. Somehow we are all implicated in the death of Jesus. Our rebellion, our sin, places him on the cross.

Paradoxically, however, the crowd's words also reveal a deeper truth. The blood of Christ does not mark with condemnation; it promises forgiveness. It does not stain with guilt; it washes sin away. By accepting suffering and death at the hands of sinners, Jesus wins the victory of love. His blood be on us, indeed! Just as we all share guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus, so too are we all granted mercy by his self-giving death. United in baptism to his death and resurrection, receiving his body and blood in communion, we receive grace, freedom, and life.

In the days to come, do not look at these contradictions as puzzles to be solved. They are mysteries beyond full understanding. But as you contemplate the events of Holy Week, you will discover new depths of God's love for you. May his blood be upon us all, with mercy and salvation.