

PATIENT AS STARS, THEY BUILD IN AIR  
TIER AFTER TIER A TIMBERED CHOIR  
STOUT BEAMS UPHOLDING WEIGHTLESS GRACE  
OF SONG, A BLESSING ON THIS PLACE.

+ WENDELL BERRY

PALM SUNDAY  
MARCH 29, 2026  
9:00 A.M.

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# Order of Worship

Palm Sunday  
March 29, 2026 † 9:00 a.m.

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## Prelude

*(Children gather in the narthex to ready for the processional hymn)*

## A Palm Sunday Musical Invocation

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!”

*Combined Choirs*

## Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> “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.”

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

## Procession of Palms and Opening Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*(hymn) 344*

### *Refrain*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

<sup>1</sup> You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

<sup>2</sup>The company of angels are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

### **Call To Worship**

We gather on the road! Jesus is here!

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

He comes as a different King. He promises a Kingdom not of this world.

**Hosanna! Our Redeemer draws near to show us a new way.**

So let us welcome Christ with open hearts and lifted voices.

**Hosanna in the highest! To the one who have come to save us all.**

God of life, may you hear the cries of our hearts: for healing, for justice, for peace, for love. Let our shout of praise be heard in the streets. As we prepare our heart for the grief and sorrow of the week to come, let us find moments of quiet and sabbath so that you will fill us with what we need.

**Amen.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

We gather together on this day of Holy Praise, in thanksgiving for persistent love and a well of grace that never dries up. We return again and again, asking for forgiveness for what we have done and what we have failed to do. Community of God, turn your heart in repentance, letting God remove your burdens and guilt.

**My heart is heavy and I struggle to trust that you bring unity and peace to the world. Forgive me and heal me. My mind is racing and I struggle to see other people as your Beloved. Forgive me and heal me. My body feels the weight of hurt I have caused to my relationships, to my community, to the world you have created. Forgive me and heal me.**

Beloved in Christ, Jesus came riding on a donkey, not looking for accolades and praise, but bringing wholeness and restoration. Join today with the crowds, for forgiveness and grace comes to you today, tomorrow, and always.

### **Announcements & Prayer Concerns**

### **Children's Sermon**

### **Sermon**

## Passion Song

“You Are My King (Amazing Love)”

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken. I'm accepted. You were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me. because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be, that You my King would die for me?  
Amazing love I know it's true. It's my joy to honor You in all I do, I honor You.

You are my King. You are my King. Jesus, You are my King. Jesus, You are my King.

## Lenten Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved, your love for  
us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are  
God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship You.**

*\*from A New Zealand Prayer Book*

## Offering

### Offering Music

### 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 give space to all creatures for rest and renewal. 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.**

### Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

## **Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution**

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

God of quiet, God of chaos. You meet us where we are, coming to us in the waters of baptism, and the bread and wine as we gather at the Table. God of peace and God of unity, you meet us in the community of this Table, over and over offering forgiveness and mercy. As we pilgrimage toward the hill and the cross, we trust in the promises given to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the night...

## **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.**

The God of rest and renewal promises new life in the bread and the wine. If you are weary, or worn, and yearn for Sabbath, there is space for you here. Come.

*A member of our prayer team will be available during communion distribution for individual and private prayer. Please meet them at the prayer room to the right of the sanctuary.*

## **Communion Music**

### **Communion Blessing**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, brings us to rest in you, and gives us what we need for the days ahead. Renewed by this meal, send us out to share your joy and love with the world. **Amen.**

## **Passion Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66**

**Anthem**

“Once Upon A Tree”

*Vocal Choir*

## **A Palm/Passion Sunday Benediction**

We remember how we praised Jesus, with palm branches and open hearts.

**We leave today knowing that we are children of God who promised a new kingdom.**

We remember the sorrow of Jesus, misunderstood, rejected, and led to the cross.

**We leave paying attention to the pain and grief. We are ready to offer comfort to those that Jesus loves.**

And we remember the trust of Jesus, who prayed, *"Into your hands I commend my spirit."*

**We leave with trust and with hope, ready to share that trust and hope with others.**

Now may the God of praise, of grief, and hope, who meets you in your pain, and who fills you with hope, ✠ bless you this day and always.

**Amen!**

## **Sending Song**

*"Go to Dark Gethsemane"*

*(hymn) 347*

<sup>1</sup> Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

<sup>3</sup> Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

## **Dismissal**

**Leader:** Go in peace!

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

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Welcome & Thank You!

**Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Paul Lutheran today,  
where it is our mission *“To Share Christ’s Love, With Joy!”***

We aim for your time with us to be both enriching and spiritually fulfilling. If you're new, please feel free to introduce yourself to the pastors and fellow worshippers. We value the opportunity to connect with you and hope to see you again soon. At St. Paul Lutheran, everyone is sincerely welcome to partake in Holy Communion. Should you require a gluten-free option, simply inform the pastor when you approach. Worshipers are encouraged to bring a bible to worship. If one is needed there are bibles available in the prayer room in the rear corner of the sanctuary. Additionally, gender-neutral restrooms are accessible in our education/preschool wing, ensuring a comfortable experience for all.

We look forward to seeing you again!

### **Thank You To Those Involved in Worship Leading!**

**Pastors:** Dale & Carrie Stiles  
**Worship Assistant:** Christina Fashner  
**Usher:** Bruce Spangler  
**Greeter:** Linda Welch, Emily Stegner, Dwight Gardstrom  
**Prayer Corner:** Wendy Hazzard  
**Organist:** Jeanne Richards  
**Accompanist:** Kim Clark  
**Tech Team:** Chris Timmons  
**Altar Guild:** Holly Maeckelbergh  
**Counters:** Lori Fraley, Katie Edwards

**Please keep in your prayers this week:** Our partners in Tanzania, the Migoli and Mtera parishes, Ruth Koehly, Jean Enrooth, Josie Peterson, John & Darla Peterson, Allan DeWolf, Lois (friend of Janelle Albee), Kathy (sister of Ron Rozeske), Julie (family of Pat Miska), Mick Byl, Wendy Krona, Mike (Sally Liljedahl uncle), Lacey Sperling, Aspen Indihar, Waylon Buccanero, Jim Rauner, Jeremy and all who serve in the military, Shelby, Tom and all law enforcement.

**Flowers** today are given by The Quales are in honor of their kids and grandkids. The flower sign up sheet is on the wall in the narthex. Thank you for signing up!

**Refreshments** today are provided by Darlene Petrey. The refreshment sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Thank you for signing up!

**This past Friday and Saturday**, our confirmation and high school youth gathered for their **annual winter/spring retreat at Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp in Amery, Wisconsin**. We give thanks for each of these young people and for our dedicated adult leaders, Jen Rauner and Christina Fashner, who shared the weekend, leading, guiding, and growing in faith together. During our time away, we focused on deepening our understanding of the two sacraments of the Lutheran Church: Baptism and Holy Communion. **The youth also spent time preparing and practicing the Passion narrative, which they will help lead as part of our worship this morning**. We are grateful for this time of faith, fellowship, and formation, and for the ways these young people continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus and with one another.

**Women's Retreat at Carole England's Cabin—Cushing, WI, Saturday, April 11.** Join us for a day of fellowship and renewal at Carole and Steve England's cabin in Cushing, Wisconsin. We will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. Our theme for the day is "I Am Among the Trees." Cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the narthex.

**New Member Reception, April 12**—If you or your family is interested in officially joining St. Paul Lutheran, we will welcome new members during worship on Sunday, April 12. If interested in joining or finding out more, contact either of our pastors.

**Pack Food With Us on April 15!** Make plans to join us again for the **Annual Lakes Area Mobile Feed My Starving Children food packing event** at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake on Wednesday, April 15 from 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Free will donations to pay for food are welcome. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. Contact one of the pastors with any questions. Sign up today!

**Adopt-a-Highway Roadside Clean-Up—Wednesday, April 8 at 6:15 p.m..** Once again, you and your family are invited **help clean up the mile stretch of the road on Wyoming Trail** in front of the church. Sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

**Donations for Easter Hop:** We are looking for donations for the Easter Hop for our little ones on **April 4**. We also need volunteers to fill the eggs before the day of the event. We need bags of pre wrapped candy (no peanuts) and empty plastic Easter eggs (maybe you have some sitting around you would like to get rid of). **Drop donations off by Wednesday, April 1**. If you have any question, contact Pastor Carrie.

**Holy Week Schedule Update.** Please note that due to Holy Week observances, there will be **no Wednesday evening Soup Supper or Worship Service** this week. Thank you to all who have helped prepare and serve soup this Lenten season. We encourage everyone to join us for our special Holy Week services on Thursday and Friday as we journey toward Easter.

**Spring is here!** Join us for our **Annual Outdoor Spring Cleanup** on **Monday, April 13, Tuesday, April 14, and Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 p.m. until dusk**. Bring rakes, gloves, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, and any other tools that might be helpful. Many hands make light work, so come enjoy the fresh air, fellowship, and the joy of preparing our church grounds for this special season. Help us get our building and grounds looking like new for our 25th Year Jubilee Sunday Anniversary celebration! **We appreciate your help!**

## Weekly Financial Stewardship Update

2026 General Fund Offering Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Giving
YTD Totals	\$45,694.79	\$48,613.06	\$(2,918.27)
2026 Total Revenue Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Revenue
YTD Totals	\$59,612.1	\$59,498.51	\$113.61

*The Total Revenue Received includes ALL revenue received by SPLC .*

*General Fund Revenue is the portion of Total Revenue Received through undesignated offerings from members and guests. Please contact our Church Treasurer, Andy Buccanero or our Church Bookkeeper, Chris Timmons, with any questions.*

**Wendell Berry, "Slowly, Slowly, They Return" (1986)**  
*from This Day: Collected and New Sabbath Poems, I*



*Slowly, slowly, they return  
To the small woodland let alone:  
Great trees, outspreading and upright,  
Apostles of the living light.*

*Patient as stars, they build in air  
Tier after tier a timbered choir,  
Stout beams upholding weightless grace  
Of song, a blessing on this place.*

*They stand in waiting all around,  
Uprisings of their native ground,  
Downcomings of the distant light;  
They are the advent they await.*

*Receiving sun and giving shade,  
Their life's a benefaction made,  
And is a benediction said  
Over the living and the dead*





# LENT 2026 – SABBATH IS ...

*“The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.” — Isaiah 14:7*

Lent is a season of reflection and renewal as the days lengthen and we prepare for Easter.

This year’s theme, **“Sabbath Is ...,”** invites us to explore what it means to stop, rest, and make space for what matters most. Drawing on Scripture and the poetry of Wendell Berry, we will reflect on these weekly themes: *Sabbath Is ... Prayer, Quiet, Questions, Living Water, Healing, Lament, Praise, Service, and Joy.*

## **The Remaining Weekly Schedule and Themes**

**Week Six, Palm Sunday, March 29—Sabbath Is ... *Praise***

**Maundy Thursday, April 2—Sabbath Is ... *Service***

**Good Friday, April 3—Sabbath Is ...**

**Easter Sunday, April 5—Sabbath Is ... *Joy!***

# jubilee

## Celebrating

**Tanzania Celebration Sunday**  
**Sunday, April 19, 2026**

On **Sunday, April 19**, we mark **25 years of partnership** with our companion parishes, **Mtera and Migoli**, through Bega Kwa Bega and the Saint Paul Area Synod.

For a quarter century, this partnership has connected us across continents in prayer, shared ministry, mutual encouragement, and lasting friendship. What began as a relationship has become family in Christ.

We are especially honored that **Pastor Joyce Ngandango**, Director of Huruma Orphanage in Iringa, Tanzania, and currently studying at Luther Seminary, will be with us in person that morning. We will also share pre-recorded video greetings from: **Pastor Agripa Mgaya** (Migoli) and **Pastor Neberth Lubawa** (Mtera).

Following worship, our Boy Scouts will host their **annual pancake breakfast** in the fellowship hall, a wonderful time for fellowship and celebration together.



# 2026

## 25 Years!



**Celebrating 25 Years of Faithfulness**  
**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

A Jubilee is a time of gratitude, freedom, and new beginnings, and that is exactly what we will celebrate together on **Sunday, April 26**.

This year marks the **25th anniversary of our “Expanding Our Horizons” building remodel and renovation**, dedicated on April 29, 2001. For fifty years our original church building has faithfully served this congregation, and for the past twenty-five years the renovated and expanded space has allowed our ministry to grow even more fully.

In 2025, we reached another historic milestone: the **early payoff of our \$1,037,000 mortgage**. What began as a bold step of faith became a testimony to long-term generosity and commitment. We now celebrate not just financial freedom, but renewed energy for mission.

We will also give thanks for the completion of our five-year **Synod Redevelopment journey**, a season of renewal, discernment, and strengthening for our congregation.

We are excited to welcome that day, **Pastor Justin Grimm**, Assistant to the Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, as our guest preacher. Former pastor **Jeff Beebe and his wife, Melissa**, who will share memories from the groundbreaking and dedication season, as well as a special pre-recorded greeting from former pastor **Jim Mericle and his wife, Sondra**. **Mark your calendars and plan to join us!**

# Easter Hop!



**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

FROM 10AM - 11AM

**EASTER EGG HUNT  
COOKIE DECORATING  
CRAFTS  
GAMES**



A PARTNERSHIP EVENT  
BETWEEN THE ST. PAUL LUTHERAN  
DISCOVERY CENTER AND THE  
CHURCH.



**Young and old!**

Make plans to join us the day before Easter for our Easter Hop!  
This will be a very fun partnership ministry event with our Discover Center!

Invite friends and family!



# The Week Ahead

at St. Paul Lutheran

## **Sunday, March 29—Palm Sunday**

Worship, 9:00 a.m.

First Communion Instruction, 10:30 a.m.

Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

## **Monday, March 30**

Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, March 31**

Adult Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m.

## **Thursday, April 2**

First Communion

Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:30 p.m.

## **Friday, April 3**

Good Friday Worship, 6:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, April 4**

Easter Hop, 10:00 a.m.

## **Sunday, April 5—Easter Sunday**

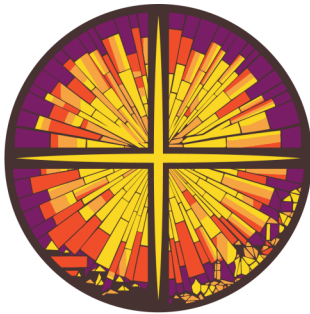
Worship, 9:00 a.m.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Sunday, April 19, Tanzania Sunday

Sunday, April 19, Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 26, Jubilee Sunday



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN  
— CHURCH —  
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!