
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

March 29th, 2026

9:00 a.m.



the good news is..

inspiring us to act

We are a community that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus Christ, and we provide as many opportunities as we can to help everyone grow spiritually and in loving service to the community and the world.

*We're glad you're here. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together.
(to learn more about the ELCA visit www.elca.org).*

*Those joining worship online, whether live or later in the week, are invited to prepare their worship space by creating a home altar. You might include meaningful linens, candles, a cross, enough bread or crackers and wine or juice for everyone at your table, and anything that helps you engage more fully in worship.
This altar becomes a gathering place for prayers, songs, communion, and a shared sense of God's presence in your home.*

✝ **GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE** ✝

~ ***The gathering responds together with texts in bold print*** ~

WELCOME

Good morning, and welcome to worship. Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. We follow Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where crowds greeted Jesus with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna." It is a day of joy and anticipation. The week ahead will carry us through the upper room, the garden, the cross, and the empty tomb. We begin it here, together, with palms in hand and hope in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we begin, I invite you to join your voices together in our call to worship

Will you follow?

Will you lay down your coat?

Will you lay down something important?

Will you shout "Hosanna"?

Will you join the parade?

Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?

Will you cut down a palm branch?

Will you wave it in the air?

Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?

Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.

We will worship. We will follow.

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

Hosanna in the highest!

VILLAGE OF HOPE VIDEO

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Find the full list of Life Together announcements near the end of the bulletin.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The presiding minister prays a blessing over the palms.

*The gathering responds: **Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark

This is the story of grace flowing down. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "

⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. This is the story of grace that covers us. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

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

GREETING

In the shouting and the silence, in the movement and the mystery
 May the grace Christ Jesus, the boundless love of God,
 and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

The presiding minister leads the call to confession, concluding:

Let us begin with confession. Join me in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth, we know that you spent your days teaching and healing. You marched through the streets and walked on water. You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables. Your good news was not

confined to conversation. It was not confined to the Temple. Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world. Holy God, we long for a faith like that. Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon. Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act. With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch, whether or not you live out your faith, whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions, God will never stop loving you. Jesus will never stop marching for you. The Spirit will never stop listening to you.

We are claimed, loved, and held in grace. What good, good news. Amen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, if we've heard this story before, the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, then help us to hear it again. And if we've never heard this story before, if we've never heard the story of Palm Sunday or the cries of "Hosanna," then give us the wisdom to follow along.

Give us the wisdom to hear these words. Give us the wisdom to take them into our hearts. Give us the wisdom to act on their truth. We are listening. Amen.

✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

POETRY READING

"For the Sake of Tiny Resurrections"

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

We took the kids to the beach,
a herd of children lathered in sunscreen.
We spent most of the day building sandcastles,
swimming in the shallows,
wiping sand off their eyelashes and noses.
Things changed
when a small fish washed up on shore.

The children saw it first—
a little body gasping to survive.
They cried out—
Quick! We have to save it!
We grabbed our buckets.
We sprinted to the waterline.
We scooped up the dying fish
and returned it to the waves.

The kids sagged with relief as the fish jolted to life,
a tiny resurrection in front of our very eyes.
Full of pride, I said to them—
You did something good.
Today, you saved a life.
A seven-year-old with sun-kissed cheeks
took the bucket from my hands and said,
I'd like to save some more.

He spent the afternoon patrolling the waves,
 hoping to dole out mercy to any shore-washed fish.
 He carried his bucket around all day, because
 love inspires love.
 Love will make you want to
 patrol the shoreline,
 sing Hosanna,
 witness a resurrection,
 save some more—
 one bucket of water at a time.

SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

There in God's Garden

ELW 342



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom.
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 sec there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982
 Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950
 Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.
 Music © 1987 Birmamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

✚ SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ✚

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As we wave our palms and walk this road with Christ, we remember that we do not walk alone. In a world full of noise and uncertainty, we speak what we believe with a shared hope that finds us. Let us join our voices in the affirmation of faith.

We believe that many years ago a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem. We believe that on that day the people cried out, longing and praying for a better world. We believe that these longings came from a place of deep hope, and we believe that hope cannot be silenced. So we listen for the Spirit. We sing Hosanna. We pay attention. For in between the silence and the song, we believe the Spirit is speaking. We believe that the good news really is good news For we have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of the peaceful parade, God of the humble entry, God of the people and the song, we come to you today with the prayers of our hearts.

We come to you today because we know that you are a God who listens. You are a God who walks with us. You are a God who acts, and for that, we are grateful.

So today, Holy One, we pray for guidance. Like Jesus, we want to act upon our beliefs. We want to allow the good news of the gospel to move through us. We want to gather people together. We want to move toward something good, but we admit, we are often unsure of what to do.

We are unsure of the steps to take. We are unsure of the road before us. So today we pray— give us strength. Give us the strength to live like the crowds that day in Jerusalem.

Where they held palm branches, may we hold a hand out to our neighbor. May we hold open the door for each other. May we hold onto hope. Where they cried “Hosanna,” may we cry out for justice.

May we cry out with joy. May we cry out to you.

Where they laid down their coats, may we lay down our resources— our energy, our creativity, and our time— so that we can build your promised day here. We do not want to simply talk about our faith. We want to act on it, so may this prayer be the first step. May this prayer, and the earnestness in our hearts, move us closer to you.

The presiding minister offers prayers for our community and for the needs of the world. Concluding:

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

PEACE

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with unconditional love, mend you with mercy, and grant you perfect peace. **And also with you.**

We are changed by Christ’s peace and now we have the holy opportunity to extend that peace to others.

OFFERING

Giving is an act of worship our response to God's goodness and grace.

Your gifts support the ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Church and extend God's love into the world. During this time the table is set.

For the healing of this world, let us give our tithes and offerings.



Ways to Give:

- Give electronically through Vanco Services.
- Use the giving app by scanning the QR code.
- Recurring or one-time online options <https://app.autobooks.co/pay/bethesda-lutheran-church-of-malmo>

Thank you for your faithful and generous support.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you ride in among us with open hands.

Receive these gifts as signs of our response. the good news at work in us.

Use what we bring to feed the hungry, shelter the vulnerable, and extend your kingdom into every corner of this world. In the name of the one we follow. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister leads the words of institution.

*The gathering responds: **Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

With cries of "Hosanna!" on our tongues,

we join our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Holy Communion is a gift of grace, where we receive the presence of Jesus in bread and wine and are reminded that we are deeply loved. All who hunger for mercy and hope are welcome at this feast. Jesus is the host, and the invitation is wide. Even across time and space, God is present in these gifts, and we, the community, are present to one another.

Come to the table. Come and receive the good news made tangible

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Bread for the journey, grace for your life, love that sustains the world.

COMMUNION VIDEO

"Hosanna! Will You Rise?"

*The Porter's Gate Featuring Matt Maher & Terrian Website: <https://www.theportersgate.com>
Album: Climate Vigil Songs @ The Porter's Gate, exclusively distributed by Integrated Music Rights Released on: 2022-06-03
Music Publisher: PG Songs And Hymns Music Publisher: Little Way Creative Music Publisher: Integrity's Praise! Music Composer, Lyricist: Terrian Bass Composer, Lyricist: Nick Chambers Composer, Lyricist: Isaac Wardell Composer, Lyricist: Leslie Jordan*

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Following the blessing the gathering responds: **Amen.**

Let us pray. Gracious God,

you have met us at this table in bread broken and love poured out in quiet mystery and bold grace. As we leave this meal, give us courage to walk the road ahead. Whether we shout with joy or sit in silence, may we follow Jesus with hearts open to your mercy And lives ready to bear your love into the world. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

DISMISSAL

Go now, following the one who comes in peace. Walk the road that holds both joy and sorrow, Both shouting and silence. And may your steps echo the love of Christ everywhere you go. **Thanks be to God.**

*We're so glad you joined us for worship today.
Wherever life finds you, know that this community welcomes you with open hearts.*

Acknowledgements: Texts and hymns from sundaysandseasons.com copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS028183. New Revised Standard Version updated edition Bible Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Liturgy by Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org Additional Liturgical texts adapted for Bethesda Lutheran by Reverend Christina Kadelbach.

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life together announcements reflect the shared life of our congregation by highlighting upcoming events, service opportunities, and ways we continue to grow in faith together.

We invite you to read through what's ahead and participate as you are able.

Your presence matters.

PRAYER & CARE LIST Jim Christensen, Sherry Whipple

We give thanks for the lives of Timothy Dooley, Marilyn Cierzan, Sam Samuelson, and Marshawne Geisdorf and we hold their families and friends in our prayers.

As a community of faith, we are committed to holding one another in prayer and care.

We invite you to pray for those listed here and offer support as you are able.

To request prayers for yourself or someone else (with their permission).

Please get in touch with the church office.

WELCOME Friends in Christ, we're glad you're here. Your presence is a gift to this community. If you would like us to be in touch or want to learn more about Bethesda, you're welcome to share your name in the friendship/welcome notebook.

CHILDREN WELCOME Children are a gift we celebrate and are welcome at Holy Communion. We trust that worship belongs to people of all ages. A quieter, unstaffed nursery is available through the double doors to the left when exiting the sanctuary. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available in the narthex.

WELCOME NOTEBOOK Please take a moment to sign the friendship notebook in the black folder at the end of your pew. Passing it along is a simple act of hospitality that helps us learn one another's names and extend the warmth of Christ's welcome to all.

NAME TAGS Help your neighbors, and your pastor, remember your name! Name tags make it easier to connect and grow together in community. Sticker name tags are available near the guest book at the main entrance.

PASTORAL CARE Caring for one another is part of who we are. If you are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please let Pastor Christina or one of our parish nurses know. We would be honored to support you.

COFFEE HOSPITALITY Coffee and conversation are part of how we care for one another. If you'd like to help serve coffee or share a treat, your presence makes a difference. Sign-up information is available, and contributions for the freezer are always welcome.

LECTORS Thank you to those who share their voices in the reading of Scripture. Newly updated readings for the upcoming weeks are available on the table in the narthex.

EASTER LILLIES Today is the last day to order an Easter lily for sanctuary decoration. Plants are \$15 and may be given in memory or in honor of someone special. Sign-up sheets are available in the fellowship hall.

COME SING WITH US If you enjoy singing, consider joining the choir as we begin again on Tuesday, April 14th at 3pm. Whether you've sung for years or simply love music, there is a place for you. Choir is a joyful way to participate in worship, build community, and share in the gift of song together. We would be delighted to welcome your voice. All Voices Welcome.

HOLY WEEK AT BETHESDA

- **Maundy Thursday** Worship with Holy Communion, noon | potluck lunch following
- **Good Friday** Worship, Noon
- **Easter Sunday** Worship with Holy Communion, 9:00 am

MILLE LACS AREA LENTEN CANTATA "Come to the Cross and Remember"

Friday, April 3rd at 7:30 pm. at Faith Lutheran Church, 220 E Lake St, Isle, MN 56342
A free will offering will support the Isle Area Food Shelf.

CRAFT SWAP & SUPPLY DRIVE Spring is the perfect time to organize and declutter those craft bins! Consider donating your gently used art and craft supplies to our upcoming Craft Swap and Supply Drive. Items will be collected the week before the event. On April 11, 9:00 am - Noon, join us for a community gathering where creativity meets generosity, share what you no longer need, and discover new-to-you supplies to inspire your next project.

SEASONS OF LIFE SERIES Wednesday, April 15th 2026 11:00 AM – Noon

Join Pastor Christina on April 15th for a practical and compassionate conversation about one of the most loving things you can do for your family, getting your wishes organized before they need to know them. We'll talk through selecting scripture, hymns, readings, and the personal touches that make a service truly yours. Open to everyone, with time for questions to follow. Virtual attendance is available email blcmalmo@gmail.com for the livestream link. And because no good gathering at Bethesda ends without food, we'll close with a traditional funeral lunch.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA HEARTLAND CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING

"Steeped in Kindness" Saturday, April 18th, 2026 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. All are warmly invited to a morning of fellowship, worship, and joy. Guest speaker: Jason Kempthorne from Salem West. Cost: \$12 (includes lunch). Bring a friend and join us for a meaningful and uplifting time together.

NEEDED Our quilters are hard at work and they need your help! Clean, washed mattress pads and blankets are needed for batting. Simply leave donations outside the quilters' closet door. Thank you for supporting this beloved ministry!

CHRISTIAN LADIES AROUND THE LAKE All women are welcome to gather for Christian Ladies Around the Lake on April 16th at 12:30 pm at Tulibee Tavern.

Monique Leith will share her faith story, and the group will receive a special update on Ukraine. Cost is \$20. Reserve your spot by contacting Lois at (320) 674-0136.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

From Sunday, March 22th, In person:63 Online:15

HOLY WEEK AT BETHESDA

Monday, March 30th

9:30 am Strategic Planning Group Meeting
11:30 am Pinochle
7:00 pm AA/Alanon

Tuesday, March 31st

9:00 am Chair Yoga

Wednesday, April 1st

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, April 2nd Maundy Thursday

8:00 am ROMEOS (Men's fellowship & Study)
9:15 am Chair Yoga
12:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service, Potluck following

Friday, April 3rd Good Friday

12:00 pm Good Friday Worship
7:30 pm Mille Lacs Area Cantata at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle

Saturday, April 4th

1 pm – 4 pm Celebration of Life Gathering for Marilyn Cierzan
At the Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington, MN

Sunday, April 5th Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org

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E-mail address: blcmalmo@gmail.com

A member congregation of the NE MN Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Ministers: All People of Bethesda Lutheran Church

Pastoral Ministries: Reverend Christina Kadelbach

blc.reverend@gmail.com 218-213-6731

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Music & Sound Technician: Jim Christensen

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, Kathy Berland RN ANP

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene C. 320-279-0097

Ushers: Darrel Kelly, Dick Stebbins **Greeters:** David & Libby Brown

Lector: Mary Vukelich **Hospitality:** Dick & Sue Stebbins, Sylvia Tapat

March Altar Care: Elsa Carlson, Kat Carlson

April Altar Care: Linda Southworth and Carol Pantsari

Serving on April 2nd Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion

Ushers: Dick and Sue Stebbins **Lector:** Ron Gordon, LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality: Potluck following worship

April Altar Care: Linda Southworth and Carol Pantsari

Serving on April 3rd Good Friday

Ushers: David and Libby Brown **Lector:** Mary Vukelich

Serving on April 5th Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day with Holy Communion

Ushers: Mark & Mary Vukelich **Greeters:** Dianne and Del Jones

Lector: London Feland **Hospitality:** Rocky and Cindy VanVickle

April Altar Care: Linda Southworth and Carol Pantsari