



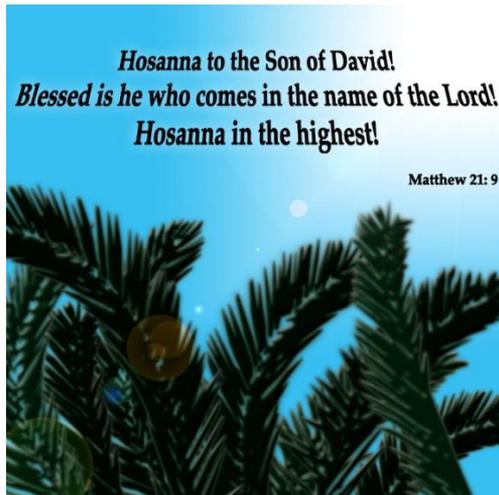
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Pastor Frank Gantt
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March 29, 2026



Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession
<https://clclutheran.org/>

WELCOME: *To all who are present today, we offer a heart-felt welcome in Jesus' name.*

The King comes to His people not in earthly power but in humility, fulfilling God's promise as He rides into Jerusalem to bring salvation. Yet this same King humbles Himself even further, taking the form of a servant and becoming obedient unto death—even death on a cross—for the redemption of sinners. Therefore, the One who is lowly and rejected is also the exalted Lord, before whom every knee will bow, revealing that His suffering is the very means of His reign and our peace.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN: #160

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

**All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and Blessed One.**

**All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels
Is praising Thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.**

**All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews
With psalms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present.**

**All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,**

To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
To Thee, before Thy Passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.
Amen.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: (spoken) Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Cong: If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and His truth is not in us.

Cong: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Then let us confess our sins to God in prayer and seek His forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Cong: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray, of Your bountiful mercy, be merciful unto use. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord.

Cong: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GLORY TO GOD: #161

**Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Thro' pillared court and Temple
The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed
Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving
And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of men and angels
Rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav'n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice.
Amen.**

THE GREETING:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Almighty God, You graciously sent Your Son into the world that through His poverty we might be made rich. By Your Holy Spirit, cause us to take refuge in and to follow His example of selflessness that we, trusting in His suffering and death and walking in willing obedience to Your commandments. Through the faith worked by the Gospel in our hearts make us partakers of His resurrection and heirs of His glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Zechariah 9:9-17

(ESV) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (10) I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to

the ends of the earth. (11) As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. (12) Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. (13) For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword. (14) Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. (15) The LORD of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar. (16) On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. (17) For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 2:1-11

(ESV) So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, (2) complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is

above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostolic Creed

I believe God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church – the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: #725

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

**No tramp of soldiers' marching feet
With banners and with drums,
No sound of music's martial beat:
"The King of glory comes!"
To greet what pomp of kingly pride
No bells in triumph ring,
No city gates swing open wide:
"Behold, behold your King!"**

**And yet He comes. The children cheer;
With palms His path is strown.
With ev'ry step the cross draws near:
The King of glory's throne.
Astride a colt He passes by
As loud hosannas ring,
Or else the very stones would cry
"Behold, behold your King!"**

**What fading flow'rs His road adorn;
The palms, how soon laid down!
No bloom or leaf but only thorn
The King of glory's crown.
The soldiers mock, the rabble cries,
The streets with tumult ring,
As Pilate to the mob replies,
"Behold, behold your King!"**

**Now he who bore for mortals' sake
The cross and all its pains
And chose a servant's form to take,
The King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior's name
Till heaven's rafters ring,
And all the ransomed host proclaim
"Behold, behold your King!"**

THE SERMON: Matthew 21:1-9

(ESV) Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, (2) saying to them, "Go into the village in front 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, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." (4) This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the

prophet, saying, (5) “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’” (6) The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. (7) They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. (8) Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. (9) And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

The Importance of Palm Sunday

OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
And take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me with Your free Spirit.
Amen.**

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #162

Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty

**Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
To see th'approaching Sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on His sapphire throne
Expects His own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O Christ, Thy power and reign.
Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, we implore You to give to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word, as is fitting for it, may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people, that in constant faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide until the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KANSAS CITY SERVICE: Pastor Gantt will be going to Kansas City following the service this morning to conduct the monthly service there.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE: The schedule for Holy Week & Easter is as follows: A special online only devotional service will be streamed to our YouTube channel at 6:00 PM. Good Friday service with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM. Easter morning breakfast beginning at 8:30 AM. No Bible Class. Easter Day service at 10:00 AM. Pastor will leave immediately following the Easter service for the monthly Atlanta circuit trip.

CALL NEWS Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Teacher Noah Ohlmann of Grace Ev. Lutheran School, Valentine, NE, has returned the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Dr. Daniel Sullivan has accepted the call from the CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions to serve as a professor at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has received the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Teacher Lane Fischer of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN, has received the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI.

Holy Week Meditations based on a Palm Sunday Hymn

(Henry Milman, born in 1791 in London, was in the course of his life a successful playwright, poet, theologian, minister, historian, and hymn writer. He was ordained in 1817, became a professor at Oxford in 1821, and in 1849 was appointed Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral until his death in 1868.

In the early 1820s, Bishop Reginald Heber—the author of the hymn “From Greenland’s Icy Mountains”—had asked Milman to contribute some hymns for a song book he was planning. Milman contributed 13 poems. The book was published in July 1827 after Heber himself had died. And there, on page 58, it appeared for the first time in print—the hymn that has been called one of the finest ever written in the English language: Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty by “H. H. M.”—Henry H. Milman. To this day it is the best loved of all Palm Sunday hymns, and today we sing it again and consider the spiritual truths it contains.)

MONDAY

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed. [TLH 162:1]

On Palm Sunday we remembered Jesus’ entry and greeted Him with the same cries of Hosanna! We remember that Jesus is a king who has come to us as well, to rule in our hearts by His mercy and loving-kindness. He is guiding us along paths that will be best for us, giving us guidance and instruction for life that is always right and true. He is our king who defends us from our greatest enemies—the forces of evil in the heavenly realms—saving us from the death-trap of our sins, from God’s judgment, and from everlasting sorrow.

History has seen its share of poor rulers and bad kings, but this One who enters Jerusalem to our shouts of Hosanna is well-deserving of them. This King we can trust for all eternity. Trust Him to lead us. Trust Him to protect us.

TUESDAY

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin. [TLH 162:2]

“In lowly pomp ride on to die.” That is a striking phrase, isn't it? Jesus was riding to His death and He knew it, and we know it. We know where this donkey ride is leading. It is leading to pain, suffering, scorn, mockery, indignity, miscarriage of justice, betrayal, abandonment. It is leading to a death by crucifixion—a method of execution that would have today's human rights organizations up in arms—but nobody defended Jesus when He was nailed to a cross. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday He truly was “riding on to die.”

But the hymn verse also speaks of a triumph. “O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin...” So with each of those last steps that the Lord took toward the cross in that final week, He was actually leading death captive and conquering sin: when He confessed openly that He was the Son of God; when He prayed for those who persecuted Him; when He told the criminal hanging nearby that he would be with Him in paradise; and when He did not come down from the cross, but stayed until His job was finished.

WEDNESDAY

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching Sacrifice. [TLH 162:3]

The idea that the punishment we deserved for our sin against God is taken on by a substitute is stunning to say the least. Nowhere in any other religion do we find this idea that someone else has taken the sinner's place. Outside of Christianity, every other religion teaches that you and I must either suffer for our guilt or do good works to make up for it. But that is not what Scripture teaches, because that is not how God actually handled it. The concept of God's Son becoming human and suffering Hell in our place is so unique that the prophets themselves searched their own writings to see what God was really saying about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would

follow. Think of Isaiah after he finished writing that famous 53rd chapter which concludes: “He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12). Picture Isaiah looking at those words and thinking, “Does God really mean this? Is this really how it works? Yes! Amazing!”

And even the angels “long to look into these things” the Apostle Peter wrote. They surely do look down with “wond’ring eyes to see th’ approaching sacrifice.”

THURSDAY

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on His sapphire throne
Expects His own anointed Son. [TLH 162:4]

Could there have been any other way to redeem mankind from sin and death? Any other way to make a proper payment to God to satisfy justice? Jesus wondered that for a moment in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42).

It was not possible. The Father expected a sacrifice that was valuable enough to cover all human guilt. No mere man could be worth that much. Only the life of Jesus, who was both divine and human, could make an offering great enough. Listen to Psalm 49:7-8: “No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—that he should live on forever and not see decay” (NIV).

No man is worth enough to give Himself for another person’s sins. Only the giving of Jesus’ life could cover us all. So it is true what the hymn says: “The Father on His sapphire throne expects His own anointed Son.”

FRIDAY

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain.
Then take, O Christ, Thy power and reign. [TLH 162:5]

When facing something very difficult, it helps to look beyond it. Scripture tells us that Jesus did this. That last entry into Jerusalem could not have been easy for Him, knowing that He was but following a path to a horrific death and would endure the torments of Hell, His own Heavenly Father forsaking Him. But Jesus looked ahead to the glory that would follow. He looked beyond the cross to the empty tomb, His ascension, the retaking of His rightful position of rule. He looked ahead to the days when He would stand the triumphant victor and be the loving Head over all things for the good of His Church.

May we too, when days are difficult and times are hard, look, as Jesus did, past the suffering and indignity and look to the joy that is set before us. May we endure, as Christ did, knowing the glories of Heaven that are to come. The last verse of Milman's hymn looks ahead to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus: "Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, Thy power and reign."

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

March 30 – April 04, 2026

Mon Zechariah 9:9-10 The prophet's promise: Zion's King Messiah will bring exultant joy when He comes to Jerusalem. He is humble, comes not with weapons of war, but to proclaim peace to the ends of the earth!

Tues Matthew 21:1-9 Jesus comes to Jerusalem for the Passover, and He comes humbly riding the foal of a donkey. A large crowd welcomes Him, applying verses from one of their Passover Psalms (118) to Him!

Wed Philippians 2:5-11 The apostle calls for a Christ-like attitude in God's people. Not only did He take on the nature of a servant (v7), but He also humbled Himself to die for us, before His glorious exaltation! (v9)

Maunder Thursday John 13:1-15 Jesus is about to lay down His life for His disciples, but He is also not too proud to be their servant and wash their feet. Thus He would lead us also to serve one another.

Good Friday Psalm 22:1-21 This Psalm was on our Savior's mind as He hung on the cross this day. It speaks of the profound suffering of God's Messiah, while still looking forward to God's deliverance (vv19-21).

Sat Psalm 22:22-31 On that sad Saturday after our Lord's death, the disciples would have had reason to hope if they had remembered the promises at the end of this Psalm from which Jesus quoted on the cross.