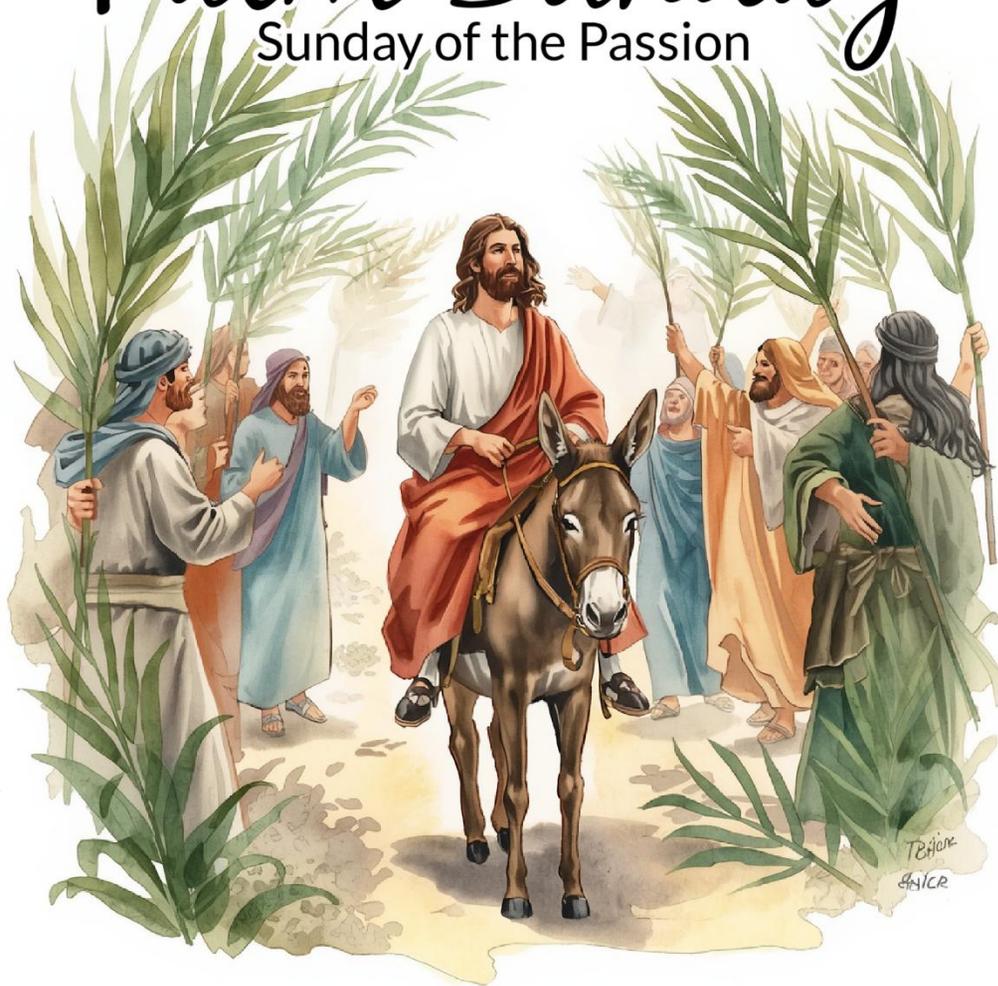


Palm Sunday

Sunday of the Passion



St. John's Lutheran Church
March 29, 2026

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH- MISSOURI SYNOD

324 Third St. N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431 218-927-3170 / Email: stjohndaitkin@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohndaitkin.org "Like us" on Facebook

Pastor Ben Hollingsead: PHONE: 651-323-3293 / EMAIL: pastorbenh@gmail.com

Marketing & Communications: Greta Rose – EMAIL: grets07@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

WELCOME: We are happy to have you worship with us today. It is our prayer that you will receive spiritual profit from your fellowship with us. If you have no church home, you are welcome here.

HOLY COMMUNION

If you are a member of St. John's, see page 329 for help in preparing to receive Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins.

If you are a guest, welcome! Communion at St. John's is reserved for members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations. Please speak with the Pastor about Communion before participating.

Didn't have a chance to talk with Pastor about Communion before church? If you're a member of an LCMS congregation, you are welcome to Communion, but please let Pastor know where you go to church when you come to the Communion rail.

APPOINTMENTS WITH GOD – WE SERVE IN LOVE

Sunday, Mar 29	9:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship / Communion SS / Adult Choir Singing Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 am	SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	11:45 am	Bell Choir
Tuesday, Mar 31	9:00 am	Quilting
	1:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, Apr 1	9:00 am	Men's Bible Study
	3:30 pm	Confirmation
	4:30 pm	Choir Practice
	5:00 pm	ACT
Thursday, Apr 2	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship / Communion
Friday, April 3	1:00 pm	Good Friday Worship / Communion
	7:30 pm	Tenebrae Worship
Sunday, Apr 5	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Worship / Communion Coffee & Fellowship
	9:00 am	Easter Worship / Communion Coffee & Fellowship
		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NO BIBLE STUDY

PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 2026

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL READING: John 12:12-19

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #442 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service Setting Three, page 184

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION – page 184

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16 (read responsively)

KYRIE – page 186

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 50:4-9

EPISTLE: Philippians 2:5-11

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-66

NICENE CREED – page 191

ADULT CHOIR & SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN SING

HYMN OF THE DAY: #441 - “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

SERMON: The Mighty Footsteps of a Donkey

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING: #781, v.1 - “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT – page 194

LORD’S PRAYER – page 196

PAX DOMINI AND AGNUS DEI – page 197

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: #443 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
#624 – “The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”
#617 – “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

NUNC DIMITTIS - page 199

BENEDICTION - page 202

CLOSING HYMN: #423 – “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

PROCESSIONAL READING: Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, [a] the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 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!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 50:4-9

The 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. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I 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. But 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. He 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. Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

EPISTLE: Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-66

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" (continued on back)

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.



WE PRAY FOR...

Those battling cancer – Lisa Baty, Rev. Robin Collins, Ruth Ferguson, Darlene Horvath, Shirley Klitzke, Fritzie Lamke, Marcus Marsh, Gary Miller, Jeff Moe, John Pearson, Carol Stevens, Tim Wegner and Ray Williams.

Those dealing with other health issues – Maggie Borseth, Lois Du Chane, Yvonne Erdman, Rowan Grage, Lori Hawkins, Claire Hill, Linda Hollingsead, Ian Hughes, Rodney Larson Jr., Ardis Lillestol, Jordin Mae, Jake Mehr, Michele Messetler- Mondry, Krista Olson, Kathy Pearson, Ginger Peterson, Mark Rasmussen, Shirley Renstrom, Clark Sadlo, Deborah Sergot, Joseph Schuelke, Pat Scott, Colton Blake Shoemocker, Clyde Swanson, Roy Van Horn, Chuck Virginia, Adah Williams, and Connor Wood.

SPECIAL VOTER MEETING TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

As of today, the following individuals have expressed interest in running for leadership roles within our congregation. We are grateful for their willingness to serve. **Elections will be held TODAY, FOLLOWING WORSHIP.** We encourage ALL members to attend this important Voters Assembly meeting. **You must be present to vote.** Let your voice be heard to help shape the future of St. John's. Your participation matters! (This is NOT the official ballot).

St. John's Election Ballot

March 29, 2026

DEACONS

Currently, **three Deacon positions** open to fill vacancies left by Deacons who have stepped down (Jim Schendel, Dan Borseth & Jacob Redepenning).

Deacon: Short Term

(term ending in the beginning of the year 2027) CHOOSE ONE

- Tony Flerlage
- Mike Quale
- Gene Pagels (*only wants to run for short term*)
- Jim Urban
- Other _____

Deacon: Longer Term

(term ending in the beginning of the year 2029) CHOOSE TWO

- Tony Flerlage
- Mike Quale
- Jim Urban
- Other _____

BOARD OF FINANCE

Currently, one Board of Finance position is open to fill vacancy left by Beth Borseth, who has stepped down. Term will end at the beginning of the year 2028.

Board of Finance:

- Steven Burma
- Grace Novotny
- Other _____

"Alternate" Board of Finance:

- Paige Beaufeaux

HE IS RISEN!

We invite you to
ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2
6:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY / TENEBRAE

Friday, April 3
1:00PM & 7:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5
7:00AM & 9:00AM

RECORDED EASTER SERVICE AVAILABLE AT
www.stjohnaitkin.org



324 3RD STREET NW, AITKIN 218-927-3170

All are invited to the

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Spring Luncheon

*Meatballs, Breadsticks,
Salads & Desserts*

\$12 per person

THURSDAY

APRIL 16TH

11:00AM - 1:00PM

324 3rd Street NW, Aitkin
Behind the High School

www.stjohnaitkin.org  