

WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST
to Share the Hope of Eternal Life.
Sunday of the Passion
(Palm Sunday) March 29, 2026



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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Website: holycrossstegen.org

Facebook: facebook.com/holycrossstegen

Needs for pastoral care in our area, call one of our Elders-

Rick Hutson 573-780-9390,

Randy Ruzicka 314-210-4279 or Wayne Schremp 573-883-6060

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The ringing of the bells starts at 9 a.m. Pastor/Seminarian prepares for a long set of bell tones before walking up to altar.

Words written in **Bold** generally signify congregation response.

The Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We are transformed in Christ

To share the hope of eternal Life.

Welcome, let us stand and share the sign of peace and conversation.

Sit

Confession and Absolution

442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 24:7–10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26

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

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of Glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

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

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Kyrie

LSB 204



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

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.

C **Amen.**

Sit

The Coming King of Zion

⁹ 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^[a] to the ends of the earth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

21 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,^[a] the foal of a beast of burden.'" ⁶

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!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

433 Glory Be to Jesus

Sermon

Pastor Alex Smith

Stand

For today's prayer requests, please write them on the attendance card provided during the service. Once completed, fold the card and either hand it to an usher or place it on the offertory plate. The Pastor or Seminarian will include these requests during the Prayers of the Church.

We honor the Lord with our tithes and our gifts. Please Stand as the offering is brought forward and sing

Three ways to give:

- 1) offering plate—cash or check.
- 2) online at holycrossstegen.org ○ Click the “Give” icon.
- 3) by mail.

956 Create in Me (intro)

Psalm 51:10-12



□ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

Prayer of the Church Palm Sunday (Palmarum) March 29, 2026

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

King of glory, Lord of hosts, lift up the gates of our hearts, and make way for Your blessed Son. Forgive our sins and renew our souls, that we may glorify Him who died to save us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, You have raised up faithful leaders for Your Church, and we appeal to You to continue to provide pastors and church workers. Prosper the work of those who bring the light of Christ to those living in darkness. Bless those whose acts of mercy extend Your love to the disabled, wounded and forgotten throughout the world, that Your Church may serve You in faithful service and witness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You sacrificed Your own Son on the cross, that we may be called Your children. Increase the faith of all Christian fathers, that receiving Jesus and trusting in His atoning sacrifice, they may be enlivened to sacrificial love for their children. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Lord, all the might of man is nothing before You, yet You have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honor good. Give us faithful leaders who will serve honorably and well. Bless also those who serve in law enforcement and the armed forces. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, Your Son, Jesus, came to deliver His people from all evil. Take away the fear of all who suffer in this world [*especially _____*]. As they await the fullness of their salvation, fix their eyes upon their crucified Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

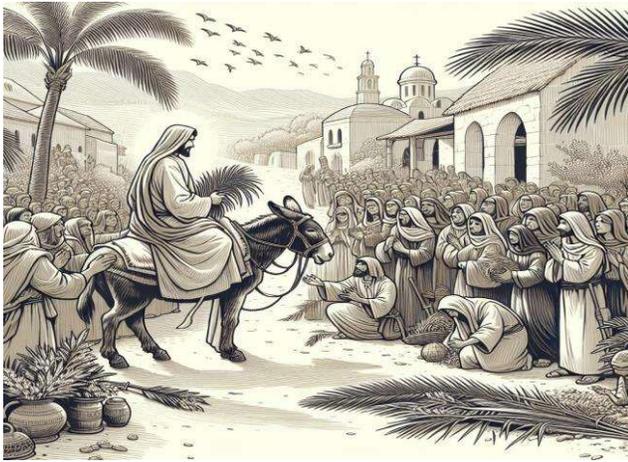
Almighty God, Your Son humbly rode into Jerusalem to the shouts of “Hosanna!” so that He might give us righteousness and salvation by His death and resurrection. Mercifully grant that we would repent of our sins and rejoice in His presence as He visits us with His body and blood in His Holy Supper this day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, make our ears like the ears of Your Son, Jesus, ever open to hear Your voice and ever eager to do Your will. As His precious Gospel rings in our ears, enliven our

tongues to praise and proclaim His wondrous works for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gracious Father, Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a Pastor according to Your will for Holy Cross church, Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things; save us, O Lord, faithful God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **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 Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei (intro)

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.

C Amen.

443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821-80, alt.

444 No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003473

Stand

Nunc Dimittis (intro)

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P 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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

441 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

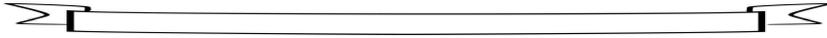
Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS

**The fresh flower arrangement on the altar,
given by Cathy Dew this Sunday.
The occasion, Wayne Schremp's Birthday.**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church - is organizing a large basket of summer-themed items for Mighty Maia's Silent Auction, as noted on the Narthex Bulletin Board. The list of donations needed includes beach towels, sunscreen, water goggles, snacks, and gift cards. We kindly invite you to sign up and contribute; your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

March 30: Blood Drive at the Hanover Lutheran Church from 1:30PM to 5:30PM
Fellowship Hall 2949 Perryville Road Cape Girardeau MO 63701

April 19: Trinity Lutheran Friedheim "Men's Club" Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
Free Will Offerings Carry Outs Available

April 16: Options for Women is having a Banquet for Life Dinner begins at 6:30 PM
Keynote speaker Mike G Williams is nationally known as a speaker writer who has a passion for life. More information in fellowship hall bulletin board.

WEEKLY CALENDAR/UPDATES

Vacancy pastoral hours upon request

Secretarial hours Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Sunday's church doors open at 8:00 AM service begins at 9:00 AM following with a Bible Study coffee and pastries generally served.

Tuesdays Bible study starting at 10:30 AM to 11:30AM



Palm Sunday March 29th 9:00 AM (HC)

Pastor Alex Smith

Fellowship Breakfast Following the Service



Maundy Holy Thursday at 6 PM (HC)

Pastor Stephen Constien

Scripture Reader: Wayne Schremp

Good Friday at 6 PM

Seminarian Peyton Holland

Scripture Reader: Randy Ruzicka

Easter Sunday at 9:00AM (HC)

Pastor Jarold Rux



If anyone would like to make a flower donation to the Easter lilies fund, you are welcome to.

Local Churches in Areas for Lenten Services

- **St Paul Lutheran Church Farmington MO**
Ash Wednesday 11 AM and 6:30 PM (HC)
Lenten services are held every Wednesday
9:00 AM and 6:30 PM -Feb. 18th to Mar.25th
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 6:30 PM (HC)
Good Friday 6:30 PM (HC)
Easter Sunday 7AM – 10 AM (HC)

- **Immanuel Lutheran Church Perryville MO**
Ash Wednesday 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM (HC)
Hymn Sing – starting at 5:40pm
Lenten Worship Mon/Tues/Wed Noon service
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 6:00 PM (HC)
Good Friday 12PM - 6:00 PM (HC)
Saturday 8:00 PM Easter vigil (HC)
Easter Sunday 730 AM and 10 AM (HC)

- **Immanuel Lutheran Church Festus/Crystal City**
Ash Wednesday 10 AM and 7:00 PM (HC)
Lenten services are held every Wednesday
Feb. 18th to Mar. 25th 10 AM and 7:00 PM
Holy Thursday (Maundy) 7:00 PM (HC)
Good Friday 7:00 PM (HC)
Easter Sunday (HC) 6AM-8AM-10:30AM

with a breakfast call for times though 636-937-5525

Have a program starting called silent witness call for details too.



SERVING TODAY

Pastor : Alex Smith
 Scripture Readers: Cathy Dew
 Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
 Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
 Orgnist: Todd Brueckner

UP COMING SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2026

Pastor Jarold Rux
 Scripture Readers: Linda Ruzicka
 Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson
 Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka
 Organist: Todd Brueckner

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	36
Second Week	43
Third Week	42
Fourth Week	40
Fifth Week	

Your Financial Support of Your Church	3/22/26	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,902.00	\$38,824.00
Actual Offerings—including online offerings (budget)	\$1,280.00	\$30,468.65
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	-\$1,622.00	-\$4,355.35
% Ahead/Behind	-55.9%	-12.5%

In Our Prayers This Week and Celebrations

Throughout the week, please keep these people in your daily prayers. As a model for prayer, consider going through the A.C.T.S. of prayer. *Adoration*: praising God for who He is.

Confession: confessing your sins to God, especially those that weigh on your heart. *Thanksgiving*: thanking God for specific blessings. *Supplication*: asking God for help.

For those who are homebound Barb Jones, Sharon Estes, Doug Arnold, Nick Krege, Pansy Meyer, Val Rakey.

For healing and continued recovery Bill Staffen (Bonnie Keir's brother, cancer), Dustin Hutson (recovering from a brain bleed), Pastor Jim Kirk (treatment for myeloma) Carol Steiger-Rudoff continued prayers for recovery of cancer (Connie Schwent's Sister In-law), Laura Pruneau Fallert (Cancer treatment) Prayers for the healing of her cancer. Continued prayers for Wayne Phillips. Continuing prayers for Maia Rottler she is on treatments for Leukemia give her family faith to help her in this journey. (granddaughter of LaJune Rottler). Sending prayers for Carl Noll's recovery, to improve while under hospital care.

For those celebrating birthdays in March Frances Krueger (March 01), Cheryl Noll (March 02), Linda Trimmer (March 02), Eric Huck (March 05), Molly Bell (March 14), Carl Noll (March 22), Wayne Schremp (March 28).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in March

For Those Who Mourn

For local, state, and national elected officials that they uphold goodness and work humbly for those they serve.

For our community that more people believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We continue to pray for a Pastor to find his calling to Holy Cross Church.

For our church family that we are transformed in Christ to share the hope of eternal life.

To submit a prayer request for inclusion in the bulletin, contact Connie, the church secretary, at 573-535-0084, or the church office at 573-883-5361 or holycrossstegen@gmail.com. Please provide your request by Wednesday noon to ensure it appears in that week's bulletin. Prayer requests will continue to be listed until removal is requested by the submitting family. If you would like the Pastor or Seminarian to read a request aloud during the service, write it on the attendance card, fold the card, and either give it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.