

Walking the Palm Sunday Path:
A Lenten Sermon Series for 2026



**Salem English Lutheran Church
All Are Welcome at Salem – Really**

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*We are a Spirit-led, welcoming,
and bold Christian community,
rooted in the neighborhood,
striving to live faithfully in God's world.*
-Salem's Mission Statement



We are a
RECONCILING in CHRIST
Congregation

Sunday March 29, 2026

Matthew 21:1–11
Jesus's Triumphal Entry

Gathering After SpringHouse Palm Sunday Opening

Palm Sunday Acclamation

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Reading

Matthew 21:1–11

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."^[a] **4**This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵"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."

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

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

Message

Hymn ACS 929

Blessed Is the One

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes
in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes
in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn "Blessed Is the One". Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

Prayers of the People

Peace/Offering: The peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!** For checks and cash offerings, please place them in the offering basket at the back of the worship space on the table you picked up your bulletin. There are envelopes cash offerings and for special giving on the same table for your convenience. For online giving through PayPal or Venmo scan one of the QR codes.



Announcements

Communion/Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer Please use whatever language that is most familiar to you.

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Sharing Holy Communion and Special Music

Without exceptions, ALL who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are welcome at this table.

Post Communion Blessing

Blessing and Benediction

Blessed Is the One —by Jan Richardson

Blessed is the One
who comes to us
by the way of love
poured out with abandon.

Blessed is the One
who walks toward us
by the way of grace
that holds us fast.

Blessed is the One
who calls us to follow
in the way of blessing,
in the path of joy.

Go from this place and journey through this holy week blessed by the Blessed One for a way of love, a way of grace, and a path of joy. **Amen**

Hymn ACS 928

Pave the Way with Branches

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: *Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es. The second staff continues the melody and includes a first ending (marked '1') and a second ending (marked '2'). The lyrics are: Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na. The third staff continues the melody and includes a first ending (marked '1') and a second ending (marked '2'). The lyrics are: Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. The fourth staff continues the melody and includes a first ending (marked '1') and a second ending (marked '2'). The lyrics are: san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

**Additional verses ad lib.:*

Release for the captives . . .

Hope for the downtrod . . .

Land for the landless . . .

Debts are forgiven . . .

Sending: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Salem Musicians