



March 29, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday
Celebration Service



**BLESSED is he
who comes
in the name
of the LORD.**

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello
Praise Team Heather Brown, Justin Brown, Nikolai Stier

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome To Messiah Lutheran Church
Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"All Glory, Laud and Honor," #173 v. 1-3



1. All glo - ry, laud and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing Thee on high,
3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring: Thou
And mor - tal men and all things Cre - at - ed make re - ply: The
To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise: Thou



art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son, Who
peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went: Our
didst ac - cept their prais - es— Ac - cept the praise we bring, Who



in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One!
praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King! A - men.

LITANY ADAPTED FROM PSALM 118:24-29 (NIV)

Leader: Let us rejoice today and be glad.

All: Lord, save us! Lord, grant us Your victory!

Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

All: The Lord is God, and He has made His light shine on us.

Leader: With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to
the horns of the altar.

**All: You are my God, and I will praise You;
you are my God, and I will exalt You.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.
We worship You Lord, in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome our newest members to the Messiah Family!

We are blessed to have you here.

Linda Cariveau

Brian J. Olsen, Jessica L. Vegetabile and James Aleksander Olson

Wayne Schaeffer

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"He Is Exalted,"
arr. Lloyd Larson, led by Herb Alexander

CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

"House of the Lord," led by Praise Team

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. Amen.

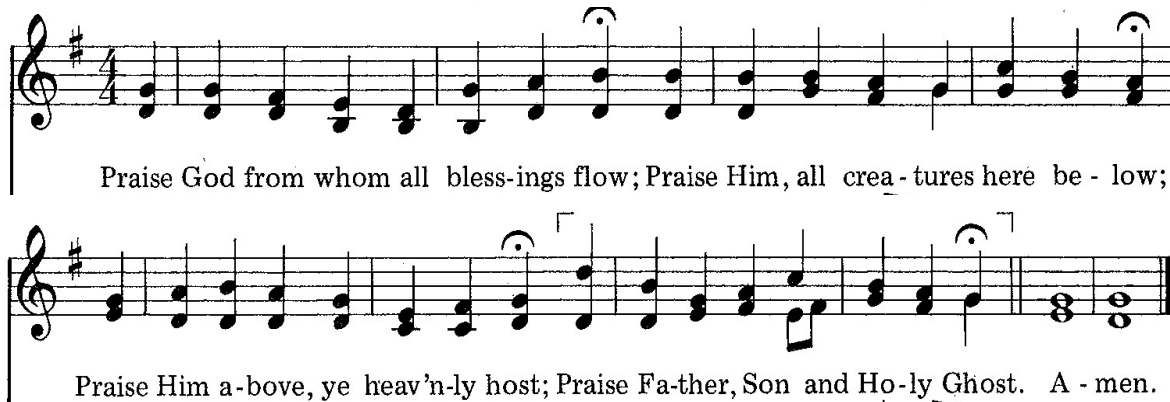
THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

OUR RESPONSE

Doxology #625



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

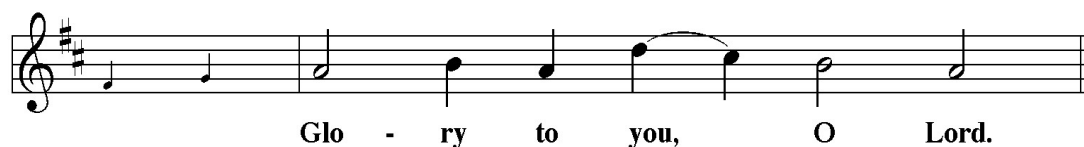
FIRST LESSON, Acts 15:1-11 (ESV)

Reader: Laurel Ling

¹ But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

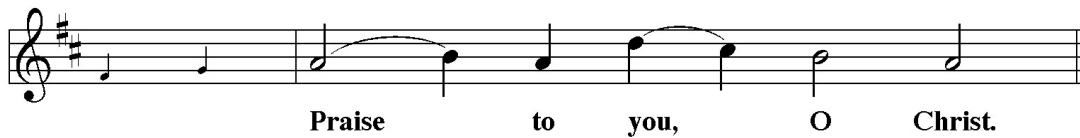
SECOND LESSON, Luke 19:37-42 (ESV)



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”



MESSAGE

“Bold Prayers: Legalism”

Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript of this sermon and those previous can be found in the Narthex.

HYMN

“There Is a Redeemer,” #206 v. 1-3

1. There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son;
 2. Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names;
 3. When I stand in Glo - ry, I will see His face,

Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.
 Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, O for sin - ners slain.
 There I'll serve my King for - ev - er In that ho - ly place.

Refrain

Thank You, oh, my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us Your Son, and

leav - ing Your Spir - it 'til the work on earth is done.

WORDS OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Terry Anzalone, Rowan Hedden, Darryl Hoelscher, Bev Korby,
Suzy Prybell, Cindi Souza, Lynn Tapella

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"



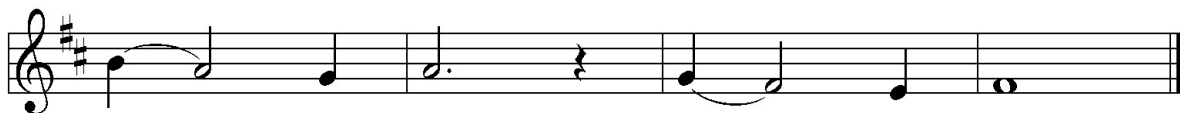
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy," #68 v. 1-3



- 1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
- 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
- 4. Thru man - y dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
- 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved.
 He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

"Lead On, O King Eternal," #483 v. 1-3



- 1. Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, The day of march has come;
- 2. Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
- 3. Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, We fol - low, not with fears;



Hence - forth in fields of con - quest Your tents shall be our home.
 And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet A - men of peace;
 For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er Your face ap - pears;



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Your grace has made us strong,
 For not with swords loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light:



And now, O King E - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.
 With deeds of love and mer - cy The heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might. A - men.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus for this holy meal and the sacrifice of Your life. Thank you Holy Spirit for awakening faith within our hearts. We hear your voice in this meal and celebrate Your holy presence. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

"I Thank God," led by Praise Team

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

*God will never lead you to a place
where His grace cannot keep you.*

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You're invited to worship with us this

Easter

04/02 ~ Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.
04/03 ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service
& Choir Cantata 7:00 p.m.
04/05 ~ Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Easter breakfast is served
beginning at 7:30!

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

40 Houbolt Road, Joliet
815-741-4488
www.MLCJoliet.org

Easter breakfast is served from 7:30-11 a.m.
A variety of delicious, homemade **Breakfast Casseroles**
(vegetarian option too!)

Sausage	Biscuits & Gravy
Irish Potatoes	Fresh Fruit
Donuts/Pastries	Coffee/Fruit Juices



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
EMERALD CROSSING VBS!
JUNE 22-26
 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!




MESSIAH
 LUTHERAN
 CHURCH

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until after the later service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attender - stay late! If Family Praise & Worship is your service - come early! Make new friends! If you'd like to help with Sunday morning coffee, please reach out to Terry Anzalone.

CONNECT WITH MESSIAH

You can use this QR code to let us know you're new, tell us that you're interested in next steps at MLC, submit prayer requests, fill out a Connect Card, and give online.

Scan here to connect with MLC:



Online Giving - There are two convenient ways to do it:

- 1) On our website at <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/give>.
- 2) Through the Church Center app on your phone or tablet, or scan the QR code above.

FAITH & BODY

Lace up your shoes and enjoy a walk in the Family Life Center, weekly on Thursdays (Sept-May) from 9-10 a.m. Everyone walks at their own pace and it's a great time for fellowship.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Please join Messiah's new Grief Support Group on the **first Thursday every month** at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those walking through loss. You are not alone. We are here to support one another. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke or Judy Fowler.

*Grief
Support
Group*

MEMORY BEARS



Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. next meeting is **April 28th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)



OWLS meets on the second Tuesday of every month at noon, September-May. We enjoy a light lunch together, play trivia, and usually feature a guest speaker or entertainment! Our next luncheon is on **April 14th**. We will be serving a ham dinner. We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount and to let us know what finger food, appetizer, salad or dessert you will bring to share.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Items for the bulletin are due by the end of the day each Tuesday, and newsletter material is due the 20th of each month.

QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. We have a lot of quilts ready to complete and if you can tie a knot, you can help us out! We even have jobs you can do sitting down. Think about stopping in and see what we do. If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available and can show you how easy it is to sew a quilt top together.

Contact Kathy Mueller at (815) 953-6601 or scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **April 21st**!

STAY-N-PLAY

Our FREE weekly open gym play group for kids five and under (along with their caretaker) meets in the Family Life Center every Tuesday morning (Sept-May) from 9:30-11. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us!



Bible Study: Our Wednesday afternoon Bible Study begins a new six-week session on **April 8th** from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We'll follow the book, "How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk," by Kay Arthur. This study of vital passages from Ephesians will help you discover what God says about the lifestyle of a true believer.

Bunco: Join us for Bunco on Saturday, **April 18th** from 1-4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Beth at 815-735-7897.

Spring Luncheon: Our next luncheon is Sunday, **May 3rd** from noon-2 p.m. and will feature a salad bar, games and prizes! Get your tickets in the Narthex on Sundays, April 19th and 26th. Free will offering will be collected and childcare will be available.

For more info on Messiah Women's Ministries, please reach out to Sherri Unyi.

YOUNG ADULT "IGNITE" BIBLE STUDY

For those out of high school and older - Join us for coffee and Bible Study in classroom #101 Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will share their final perform for this season during the 10:45 service on April 26th. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

J-CHURCH

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:45 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

MILE MARKERS

- First Communion (4th grade) March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th,
Communion April 2nd.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K through 5th groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room!

For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5th grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org or Megan Kuhn, Christian Ed. Director, at christianed@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room.

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

FAM meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings from 6-8.

For more info on ministries for students 6th through 12th grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor Altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY, March 29

10 a.m. Palm Sunday Celebration Service
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, March 30

n/a

TUESDAY, March 31

9:30 a.m. Stay N Play

WEDNESDAY, April 1

n/a

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2

12 p.m. Staff Meeting
5 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship
7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3

5 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship
7 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Worship
and Choir Cantata

SATURDAY, April 4

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5

7:30-11 a.m. Easter Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 102

10:45: 60

K-5th:

6th-8th: 3

High School: 2

Ignite: 1

Insight: 23

Online: 24

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$160,237
YTD Giving Received: \$120,201
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$7,873

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 95:2

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

Messiah office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., otherwise by appointment. Please call (815) 741-4488.

