

Behold, your King is coming!



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
605 South Center Street
Bremen, Indiana 46506
574.546.2332
stpaulsbremen.church

Palm Sunday is that pivotal Sunday in the season of Lent. Through the preceding five Sundays, we have lamented our sins in contrite hearts, pleading the Lord’s mercy as we joyfully look toward His coming. And Jesus does come to us—descending from heaven above (to earth I come!). But now He ascends, up to Jerusalem, the place of sacrifice. We follow our King into the Holy City.

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US. Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.** *(2 Corinthians 13:14)*

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna to the Son of David.** *(Matthew 21:9)*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you. *(2 Timothy 4:22)*



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12–19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

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

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your King is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had

been written about Him and had been done to Him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with Him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Processional Hymn 441 "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8-9)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 2:7-10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26

P Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

C **We bless You from the house of the LORD.**

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

C **that the King of glory may come in.**

P Who is this King of glory?

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

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,

C **that the King of glory may come in.**

P Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

C **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Kyrie ~ *Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)*

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 118:19–29; antiphon: v. 26

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank You that You have answered me
and have become My salvation.

²²The Stone that the builders rejected
has become the Cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!

²⁶Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless You from the house of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God,
and He has made His light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;
You are my God; I will extol You.

²⁹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!

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.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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 442 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Sermon Text

Psalm 118:19–29

Sermon "Opened: The Gates of Righteousness"

1. Rejoice! Heaven's gates _____ (vv 19–21)!

2. The gates were opened on the day the Lord's builders drew blood
_____ (vv 22–25).

3. Oh, give thanks, then, to the One who opened _____
_____ (vv 26–29)!

Hymn 443 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

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.

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

LSB 166

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 give you peace.



C A - men.

Recessional Hymn 543 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Altar Guild is taking donations in any amount for Easter lilies. Please place your donation in the offering plate or give to an attendant.

Altar flowers are lovingly given by Wayne and Robin Spicher in memory of Carolyn and Bill Kline's heavenly birthdays and for Beth Enders and Madison Youngman's birthdays.

Portals of Prayer for April-June are now in the tract rack.

New church directories are available on the table in the Narthex.

Canceled ~ Women Reading the Bible in Community will not meet on April 8th. We will meet on April 15th at 11:00 am. See you then!

Calendar of Events

TODAY: Palm SundayApril 2, 2023

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

Adult Basketball..... 2:00-4:00 pm

No Bell or Adult Choir Rehearsal.....

MON: ~ No School through April 10 – Spring Break ~

TUES:

WED:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 am

THURS: Maundy Thursday

Worship Service..... 7:00 pm

FRI: Good Friday

Worship Service..... 7:00 pm

SAT:

Women Reading GOD'S Word in Community Cancelled

NEXT SUNDAY: Easter Sunday!April 9, 2023

Easter Sunrise Service at the Cemetery 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast 8:00 am

Easter Festival Service with Communion 9:30 am

CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 A.M.. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates we will meet in 2023 are as follows: 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17, 5/31, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

Reminder that the 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service next Sunday will be at the cemetery chapel this year **NOT** at the church.

Thanks to all my brothers and sisters in Christ who helped me (Pastor Wonnacott) to celebrate my 61st birthday. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!!

Special Concerns:

That we who receive God's Word know and believe with certainty that Jesus, through His shed blood, opened the gates of heaven for us.

For Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

For our country and her leaders.

For the Lord's guidance in calling a new Administrative Pastor.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For those affected by the recent earthquakes & tornadoes. May the Lord comfort them with His grace and healing.

That Jesus would shine in the hearts of all Christians throughout the world who face the struggles of war and persecution as they stand up for their risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scrip orders: Due to Spring Break and Easter Services, there will be a "Scrip Day" in April. Please contact Heidi Wildauer or the school office if you need anything. Thank you.

Thanks from Lillian Salyer, Pasty Schlemmer, Phyllis Brown, Rita Stanifer, Carol Seegers, Mildred Bollenbacher, Leo Sahlhoff, and Bo Weldy for all the cards, prayers, and love that you have given them! Praise God for our family of believers in Jesus!!!

Annual Election --- A nominating committee consisting of Bruce Augustine, Larry Britt, Kevin Furman, Joe Hughes and Jim Tinkey will be asking members to prayerfully consider serving as Officers and Board Members. Positions needing filled include: Executive Director, Asst. Executive Director, Treasurer, Board of Lay Ministry, Board of Christian Education, School Board, Youth Board, Board of Evangelism Director, Board of Church Properties and Board of Parish Fellowship Director. If you have possible interest or would like additional information regarding any of these positions, feel free to speak to a member of the Nominating Committee. If you are asked to consider a position, we would respectfully ask that you prayerfully consider an opportunity to serve.

THANK YOU to all who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt and for the helping hands who assisted with the event. Attendance was great, despite the weather! Praise God for this opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus!

"Board of Stewardship is conducting a Time and Talent Survey of all adult members of St. Paul's. This will be conducted shortly after our celebration of Easter. For those of you who have given the Church your

email addresses please be on the lookout for an electronic version from "QuestionPro" the week after Easter. We will also be providing paper surveys which will be available beginning Sunday, April 16th. We would ask that all adult members please complete and return to either the Church Office or insert in the Stewardship mailbox in the Narthex no later that Sunday, April 30th."

Do you know about Lutheran Hour Ministries? They do Christian outreach like The Lutheran Hour for TV, printed Christian Material, internet and music in association with LCMS and LWML. You can listen to The Lutheran hour! Find your local station at lhm.org/lutheranhour. National outlets include SiriusXM Sundays at 10 AM ET(Family Talk Channel 131), iHeartRadio/Spotify/Apple/Google (Podcast on demand) and Classic Broadcasts at lhm.org/sentradio. Share this info with all your family, friends and neighbors.

YOUTH NEWS

EASTER BREAKFAST: Our Youth Group is sponsoring the Easter breakfast and we need the help of any available Youth in Grades 6 through High School. We will set up for the breakfast on Saturday, April 8th at 5 pm and then begin preparation of the breakfast on Sunday, April 9th at 7 am. Please join us if able.

SCHOOL CORNER

If you look down the school hallway, you may notice that we are "O-fish-ally" open for registration (theme for the Preschool/Kindergarten Round-up). We had a good time at the Round-Up with around 13 families visiting the schools! **If you know anyone looking for a Christian-based education for Preschool through 8th Grade, please encourage them to contact us.** *YOU are our best advertisements!* *Online enrollment is available through the church website (school side).*

Tuition for our families may have gotten more affordable! Starting this next school year, we can offer financially eligible families Choice Scholarships, allowing them to receive a Christian, private school education. One of the "tracks" to receive Choice is through prior SGO approval. Thanks to your support of SGO, we were able to qualify 76% of our current families for Choice!

As new students may not be able to qualify for Choice, please continue to donate to the SGO program. You are making a difference and helping the school!

Spring Musical rehearsals are well underway and the students are perfecting their southern accents. **We will be performing “Jonah’s Druthers”- the tale of Jonah, set in a western theme.** So, saddle up, pardners, and get ready for a whale of a tale! We are looking for some props to borrow for the play. If you have any of the following items, please contact Jennifer Harman:

Harmonica, small cart with wheels (metal or wood), small metal lunch pail, small to medium-sized brown or tapestry suitcase, western themed throw blanket (picnic size), and a stuffed fabric chicken.

Preschool and Day School are both on Spring Break through April 10th.

Please remember to give to the SGO!

We have provided SGO scholarships for 33 students this school year, thanks to your generous donations. **This has not only helped with their tuition this year, but also gives them the ability to qualify for a Choice scholarship for 2023-24.** As Kindergarteners cannot apply for Choice, we will be using SGO scholarships to assist with tuition and qualify them for Choice for the following years. **Please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul’s tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.