

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 13, 2025**



**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, we celebrate your coming as our ruling sovereign, and cry out our hosannas with all of creation. Yet we know we will not always remain steadfast, just as the crowds will soon turn against you. Walk with us on the upcoming journey to the cross. In Christ, with Christ, through Christ, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: FIRST READING: ZECHARIAH 9:9-10**

**The Coming of Zion's King**

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim  
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**SECOND READING: PSALM 118:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

## **HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 19:29-44**

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”

<sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They said, “The Lord needs it.” <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

<sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

<sup>37</sup> Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying,

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!”

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

### **Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem**

<sup>41</sup> As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup> They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER TIM KIRCHOFF

I'm not sure if there is an omen going on, but my records indicate that this is the 3rd Palm Sunday in a row I've been assigned as your AM. What an honor! In 2023, I wrote about the significance of Jesus riding the colt of a donkey into Jerusalem, then in '24 about the events that transpired in Simon the leper's home as told in Mark 14. Therefore it seems fitting for me to react to the second half of our Gospel from Luke 19, where Jesus is said to have wept over Jerusalem before entering it. I'm eager to explore this part of the Gospel with you, as it is a detail I don't remember.

The first thing I think worth noting is the timing of Jesus' lamentation over this city. It happens right in the middle of his triumphal entry that we celebrate on this day. I don't know about you, but I'm under the impression that any other "normal" human being would want to react positively to the cheering, the praising, and the shouts of joy that our Lord received that day. I mean come on, wouldn't all that attention and positive energy make you feel good? Jesus doesn't raise his fist in the air to salute the crowd and claim victory (remember he is riding a young donkey after all). No, Jesus ignores all this attention and instead publicly betrays a raw emotion of grief, understanding full well the fate of the Jews that will be living in the city when it is destroyed by the Romans in the coming future.

Furthermore, Jesus is sad that the present-day people do not know the true reason for his arrival as described at the end of verse 44. Rather than being sent by God to save human-kind from their sins, the people simply believe Jesus is there to save them from Roman-rule. It really feels like a parent - young child relationship. The parent knows what is best, while the child remains clueless on what is happening in most day-to-day operations.

So why are we told about this reaction Jesus has? For one, it does let us know the prophetic power Jesus has in knowing the future. Jesus is the Son of God after all. God knows our future, and therefore is able to make plans to shape our lives as He sees fit. Secondly, and probably more significant, this emotional outburst showcases how much Jesus truly loves us. Rather than thinking about his own fate, Jesus wears his heart on his sleeve. He doesn't cry in private, he publicly expresses his deep concern for the people. It is a grand selfless act that we can all learn from. As we enter Holy Week, may you rest in comfort and peace, knowing our Savior and Lord truly has your back and loves you deeply. Amen!

**HYMN OF THE DAY** | O CHRIST, WHAT CAN IT MEAN FOR US

ELW #431

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/CDBSPQZYSVE?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/CDBSPQZYSVE?feature=shared)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

With the crowds in Jerusalem and the very stones of the ground, we cry out our hope in your salvation. May we remain faithful to you even when the road ahead becomes uncertain or even frightening. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the wisdom and leadership of Indigenous communities in caring for your wondrous creation. Help us to listen to their generations upon generations of experience in walking softly upon the earth. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Natural disasters often harm those who are already most vulnerable. Help us to provide the aid needed in response to these conditions, and uplift those who are struggling in the midst of them. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort your people as they mourn and face the difficulties of life. Give courage and comfort to all who are experiencing illness of any kind. We pray especially for Pastor Phil, Scott, Janice, Rick and Kelly, Terry Schreier, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those we lift through our Prayer Chain Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Sometimes it is difficult to be honest and communicate, even with those we love the most. Help us to be open and transparent with one another, and renew all relationships in our lives. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all peoples to heed your call for justice, mercy, and compassion. Incline the hearts of the leaders of our country to align with your vision. Inspire those who have power to lead by example, seeking peace and understanding and empower us to trust that you will guide them. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Be with those who are estranged from their families. Bring them healing and restoration, and may they find love and community in new places. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our ability to care for one another. Let us love, not in words or speech, but in truth and action. Strengthen and equip us to care for those in need through the ministries of our community: The Gunbarrel Faith Partnership, Lutheran Campus Ministry, the Community Infant Program, the Little Free Pantry, All Roads of Boulder, and Rise Against Suicide. Use us to share Christ's love through the acts of kindness we share with one another and our neighbors in need, especially those who are lost, poor, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower those who nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of children and adults living on the Autism Spectrum. Help us to help them reach their fullest potential. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations now engaged in war, especially Ukraine and Gaza. In the steadfastness of your love, hasten the day of peace. Look with mercy on those exposed to hatred, conflict, and death. Show compassion to the dying and those who have lost loved ones and the safety of home. In your mercy, remove all causes and occasions of war. Incline the hearts of all people to follow the path to peace and justice, that war may cease and reconciliation may come. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Thank you for the lives of the saints gone before us. Help us to remember how they used their gifts and skills for your kingdom, and help us to do the same. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

### **PALM SUNDAY WORDS OF SILENCE & SENDING**

May we remain here to whisper our hosannas throughout this week, in every moment.

When the world goes silent on the cause of God, may we remain, breathing out the hosanna beat that marks the rhythm of this week.

In the sound of the breaking bread, hear the broken hosanna.

In the sound of coins being counted, hear the betrayed hosanna.

**Still, we trust in love's way.**

In the twisting of the crown of thorns, hear the tortured hosanna.

In the sound of the lashes, all thirty-nine, hear the scourged hosanna.

**Still, we trust in love's choice.**

In the sound of nails being hammered, hear the crucified hosanna.

In the sound of silence, hear the empty hosanna.

**Still, we trust in love's way.**

May we remain here to whisper our hosannas throughout this week, in every moment.

May we remain with you, O Jesus, still believing, still following, still your companions.

And let the stones remain silent. **Amen.**

# **SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**WEEK OF APRIL 13– APRIL 20, 2025**

## **Sunday, April 13th - Palm Sunday (Triumphal Entry)**

9:30 a.m. Palm Processional Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee and Conversation immediately following Worship

## **Wednesday, April 16th**

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible by Zoom

## **Maundy Thursday, April 17th – Words of Institution**

6:30 p.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion

## **Good Friday, April 18th – Crucifixion**

7:00 a.m. – Men’s Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

6:30 p.m. – Good Friday Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship

## **Easter Sunday, April 20th- Resurrection**

6:15 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Boulder Reservoir

9:30 a.m. – Easter Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Potluck Brunch immediately following Worship

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

**SHERILYN W. 4/6**

**KAY W. 4/9**

**DOROTHY F. 4/13**

**CINDIE S. 4/27**



### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

# DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF APRIL 13, 2025

## **Monday, April 14, 2025**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-2228-46-journey-to-the-cross-part-i2025>

Luke 22:28-46 Journey to the Cross, Part 1

## **Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-2247-71-journey-to-the-cross-part-ii2025>

Luke 22:47-71 Journey to the Cross, Part 2

## **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-231-31-journey-to-the-cross-part-iii2025>

Luke 23:1-31 Journey to the Cross, Part 3

## **Thursday, April 17, 2025**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-221-27-last-supper-maundy-thursday2025>

Luke 22:1-27 Last Supper—Maundy Thursday

## **Friday, April 18, 2025**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-2332-47-crucifixion-good-friday2025>

Luke 23:32-47 Crucifixion—Good Friday

## **Saturday, April 19, 2025**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-2348-56-burial-of-jesus2025>

Luke 23:48-56 Burial of Jesus

## **Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/luke-241-12-empty-tomb-easter2025>

Luke 24:1-12 Empty Tomb—Easter

**WELCOME!** *Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

## **GUESTS**

Please sign our Guestbook and/or fill out the brightly-colored Info Slip and place it in the offering plate. This helps us get to know you better so that we can serve you more effectively.

## **DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED PRAYERS?**

**Prayer Changes Things.** The Shepherd Prayer Chain members stand by ready to help. You'll find our Prayer Box on the table to your left as you enter the building, as well as paper and pencils. Please write your prayer request and place it in the box. *You are not required to sign your request or give the name of the person for whom we will pray, unless you wish.* If you desire a private conversation with Pastor Janet, please contact the Church Office or call her on her cell phone at 507-360-1625. **All prayer requests will remain confidential.**

## **CHILDREN ARE CHERISHED AT SHEPHERD!**

In our Sanctuary, you'll see a coloring table and soft toys. Children's bulletins are available on the table just outside the Sanctuary. If at any time you wish to take your child out for some quiet time, our Nursery/Library is stocked with supplies for playing, coloring, studying the Children's Bulletin, or reading.

## **REMEMBRANCE**

On the north wall of the Sanctuary a table is set with candles. You are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one at any time before, during, or after our worship service.

## **COMMUNION**

At Shepherd of the Hills, we recognize that the Table of Communion is not our table. It is not a Lutheran table. It is our Lord's Table – a meal prepared for all – prepared in love. *Please come.* All who long for the Good News in Jesus Christ are truly welcome at this table. As Jesus called children to be close to him, we, likewise, extend this invitation to all children. Should you not feel comfortable receiving the Sacrament, please come forward indicating that you wish to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest.

## **COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP**

Arrangements can be made to bring communion to you at a time convenient for you. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend normal services, such as a hospital stay or for personal reasons, and wish to have communion brought to you, please contact the Church Office, Pastor Janet at 507-360-1625, or Dick Werpy at 720-771-6767.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At Shepherd, we worship as one Faith Family. If you wish to extend your worship to include membership, please see Pastor Janet.



# Shepherd of the Hills

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

THE MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE

PASTOR: REV. JANET COLBY KETTERING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: KEN & GERRY MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTERS: TIM KIRCHOFF, DICK WERPY & JOHN YARBERRY

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

JOHN YARBERRY, PRESIDENT

DICK WERPY, VICE-PRESIDENT

KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

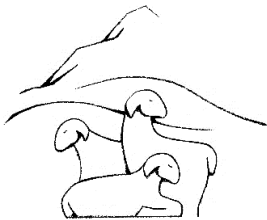
TERRY SCOPY, TREASURER

WAYNE OTTO & JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

JANICE IRISH, MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, CINDIE SCOPY & PASTOR JANET KETTERING

ZOOM TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT



Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, we

† *Gather in Love*

† *Grow in Faith*

† *Share God's Love & Grace*

† *We are Empowered to BOLDLY*

*Proclaim & Witness God's Word*



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