



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pearland, TX

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion
Contemporary Service
March 29, 2026

*Our mission is to raise disciples planted in God's love,
growing in faithfulness and nourishing the world.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ACCLAMATION

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

BLESSING OF PALMS

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for entering into Jerusalem, and for entering into Pearland today. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow Jesus throughout this Holy Week, that we, too, might follow the way of the cross and live in newness of life, for us and for all creation. We pray this in the name of the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

PROCESSION HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor (ELW 344)*

Refrain All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

¹ You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. **Refrain**

² The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. **Refrain**

³ The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. **Refrain**

⁴ To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. **Refrain**

⁵ Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. **Refrain**

The Holy Baptism of Iverson Maxwell Walls

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Iverson Maxwell Walls for baptism.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

P: As you bring Iverson to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture Iverson in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help Iverson grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Iverson in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Iverson and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

All: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BAPTISM

P: *Iverson Maxwell Walls*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen. You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Iverson* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

P: *Iverson Maxwell*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All: Amen.

WELCOME

Sponsors: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

BAPTISMAL SONG This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)

¹ This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

² Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

³ Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16 *Please read responsively.*

A: ⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

All: ¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

A: ¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

All: ¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

A: ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

All: ¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God.

A: ¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

All: ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING: *Philippians 2:5-11*

A: ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Phil. 2:8-9)

P: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

All: Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above ev'ry name.

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 27:11-54*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

³⁸ Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴ The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

HYMN OF THE DAY *Were You There (ELW 353)*

¹ Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

² Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

³ Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

⁴ Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

⁵ Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray
for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and
salvation.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The ministry of New Life Lutheran Church is made possible through the tithes, gifts, and offerings of the people. We encourage you to give as an act of worship today. You can offer a gift by texting to 281.864.3278, adding a dollar amount to the message box, and send. A link will appear for a one time set up. Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again. You can also give through our website by scanning the QR code on the pew.

OFFERTORY MUSIC – CHOIR

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting Three Holy*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: 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.**

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to receive Jesus in bread and wine. This is Jesus' table and he welcomes all. Pre-filled communion packets are available in the Narthex if you would prefer to receive communion that way. Everyone else is invited to come down the center aisle

maintaining two continuous lines. You will receive a piece of bread with the words, "The body of Christ given for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." Remain on the side of the section of pews you are sitting in. You will receive an individual cup of either wine (red) or grape juice (clear) with the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." There is a basket available for your empty cup. Then return to your pew down the side aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN *ELW Setting Three Lamb*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

1 COMMUNION HYMN *Come to the Table (ELW 481)*

¹Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty,
come, and your souls will be fed.

²Come at the Lord's invitation;
receive from his nail-scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation;
drink of the blood of the Lamb. **Repeat All**

2 COMMUNION HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (ELW 351)*

¹ O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

² How pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish,
which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion
were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.

³ What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

⁴ Lord, be my consolation;
shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing
die safely in thy love.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Lamb of God: Your Only Son (ELW 336)*

¹ Your only Son, no sin to hide
But you have sent him from side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Refrain O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God
 I love the holy Lamb of God
 Oh, wash me in your precious blood
 My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

² Your gift of love we crucified
We laughed and scorned him as he died
The humble king we named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God **Refrain**

³ I was so lost, I should have died
But you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God **Refrain**

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.
All: Thanks be to God!

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UPCOMING EVENTS March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday: Mar. 29th, Please meet **outside of the church** before service to receive your palms.

Adult Sunday School: Following Sunday Service we are studying *Immortal Diamond* by Richard Rohr.

Seder Meal: Mar. 31st Tuesday, 6:30pm, Please sign the sheet in the Narthex if attending.

Maundy Thursday: Apr. 2nd at 7:00pm, Service

Friday Night Fish Fry: Apr. 3rd, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, followed by our *Good Friday service* at 7:00 PM. The dinners will be a suggested donation of \$15 per plate. All funds raised will support the *Youth Mission Trip* this summer.

Good Friday Service: Apr. 3rd, 7:00 pm

Kids Easter Party: Sat. Apr. 4th, 11:00am to 2:00pm. Please help us with this! We need plastic Easter Eggs and hard candy to put in them. Bring them any time and put them in any of our buildings.

Game Night: Sat. Apr. 25th, 5:00-8:00pm. All are welcome and pizza will be served.

Lutheran World Relief : Please bring items for *Lutheran World Relief* personal care kits. (Towels, Toothbrushes, Bars of Soap, Nail clippers, and Combs.

Quilters: Tues. 9:30AM, Come help us make Quilts for the *Lutheran World Relief*. Join us for fellowship and potluck.

Crocheters and Knitters Needed: Please help us knit or crochet *Prayer Shawls* for our ministry. Please contact Julie Watkins. auntjuliesings@yahoo.com

Fundraiser: Please bring Aluminum Cans for the Youth, raising funds for their ongoing projects.

New 2026 Altar Flower Chart: Price for flowers is \$50.00 per arrangement. Take them home after the service. Chart is located in the Narthex.

Fellowship Hall Rental: Receptions and Other Events: Call or Email the office for more Information: 281-485-1818, office@newlifelutheran.com

Council Connections: Feel free to write the Council with ideas, suggestions, or concerns to president@newlifelutheran.com

Today's Worship Leaders (9:30 AM)

Assisting Minister	Cheryl Robinson
Communion Assistants	Elna Ritter, Meredith Oliver
Ushers	
Tech Booth	Ryan Strickland

Altar Flowers are from *Lorraine Walls* in honor of *Iverson's Baptism*.

*(Altar Flowers signup sheet is located in the Narthex.
Please reserve your favorite date!)*
