

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026

10:15am Service

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

PSALM 31:9-16

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

MATTHEW 21:1-11

www.mclchurch.org

717-336-2770

office@mclchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

The second service is livestreamed and posted on our Website and YouTube channel.

Children's activity boxes are in the rear of the sanctuary

Welcome to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

*Please stand as you are able; Congregational responses are **bold**

GATHERING

Welcome

Announcements

*Palm Greeting (Repeat three times, while waving palms)

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

PRELUDE “The Holy City” S. Adams

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Responsively, let us confess our sin before God, and one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious
God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ
offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in
the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God’s steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

May God’s love continue to pour into your hearts and give you peace.

Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

***GATHERING HYMN: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"** #344
(Children processing; waving of Palms during the refrain)

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,
the King and Blessed One. [Refrain]

2 The company of angels
is 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]

***Sharing the Peace of the Lord**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always,

C: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

- ⁴ The 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.
- ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
 and I was not rebellious;
 I did not turn backward.
- ⁶ I 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.
- ⁷ The 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;
- ⁸ he 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?
- L: The word of the Lord.
 C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 31:9-16 (sung responsively)

- ⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I^l am in trouble;
 my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat^l and my belly.
- ¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my^l years with sighing;
 my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones^l are consumed.**
- ¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to^l
 my acquaintances;
 when they see me in the street^l they avoid me.
- ¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten,^l out of mind;
 I am as useless as a^l broken pot.**
- ¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is^l all around;
 they put their heads together against me; they plot to^l take my life.
- ¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in^l you, O LORD.
 I have said, "You^l are my God.**

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

¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

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

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind –
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 21:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying 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. ³ If anyone
says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them
immediately.” 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.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt
and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The 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!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** “I Love to Tell the Story”#661

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. [Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

***The Apostles' Creed**

P: Together, let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed,

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

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

***Thanksgiving for Offering**

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.



To make an Offering, you can scan this QR code or place your gift in an offering box. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Muddy Creek!

***HYMN OF REFLECTION**

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

***Prayers of Intercession**

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

A brief silence is held for reflection.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers, deacons, and lay leaders in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. (*Together aloud, we pray...*) **Restore and comfort Sev Yerger, the family of David Sloat, people facing housing and food insecurity, and those we lift silently or aloud to you now...** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

THE SENDING

***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

C: **Amen** (sung)

***SENDING HYMN: "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"#539**

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
among us with your grace,
that evil may not harm us
nor we to sin give place.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
among us with your word
and thus now and hereafter
true peace and joy afford.

3 Abide with heav'nly brightness
among us, precious Light;
your truth direct and keep us
from error's gloomy night.

4 Abide with richest blessings
among us, bounteous Lord;
let us in grace and wisdom
grow daily through your word.

5 Abide, O faithful Savior,
among us with your love;
grant steadfastness and help us
to reach our home above.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve God and one another in faith.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" K. Sadowski

Today's Service

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Interim Pastor | Rev. Stacy Chavis |
| Music Director | Greg Gehman |

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Acolyte | Russel Beck |
| Cantor | Gail Bare |
| Counters | Linda and Tim Fritz |
| Lector | Hollie Kemper |

Today's altar flowers were donated by Julie and Marleise Emhrein in honor of Dave Emhrein.
Audrey & Darlene donated the refreshments for the Fellowship Hour.

April 2nd Maundy Thursday Worship Assistant

Communion Assistant, Lector - Joe Sanchez

April 3rd Good Friday Worship Assistant

Lector - Fred Hainley

April 5th Worship Assistants

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Acolyte | Malia Mancini |
| Cantor | Greg Gehman |
| Communion Assistants | 7:30am Audrey Noll, Scott Strickland 10:15am Audrey Noll, Nancy Beck |
| Counters | Gail and Ted Bare |
| Lector | 7:30am Hollie Kemper 10:15am Judy Nichol |

MUDDY CREEK ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome to Palm Sunday Worship!

Please take a palm from the entryway tables for use during the service.

Visitors and Friends - We are so glad that you chose to be in worship with us today. There are yellow cards in each pew; please feel free to use one to tell us a bit more about you (you can leave it in an offering box or give it to an usher or the pastor). We are happy to pray with and for you and will follow up if requested. God's Blessings to you!

Prayers: In addition to those on our Prayer Ministry list, we pray for Sev Yerger, and the family of David Sloat.

Office Hours:

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday | March 30 th | 9:30am-1:30pm |
| Tuesday | March 31 st | 9:30am-1:30pm |
| Wednesday | April 1 st | 9:30am-1:30pm |
| Friday | April 3 rd | Office Closed for Holiday |

Today

- **Sign Up for the Easter Breakfast** – please use the sheets on the table under the mailboxes to tell us how many in your household will be attending and whether you will be able to bring a breakfast item. *See Pat Brendle or Nancy Beck if you have questions.*
- **Our Community Easter Egg Hunt** is today at 11:30am in the Grove!
The Easter Bunny is looking forward to seeing you there!
- **Invite your Neighbors!** Take a yard sign for your lawn so passersby will know our Easter service times. The Evangelism Committee thanks you for helping to spread the word.

Upcoming

- **Holy Week Services/Events:**

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Maundy Thursday | April 2 nd | 7pm | The Last Supper |
| Good Friday | April 3 rd | 7pm | Tenebrae Service |
| Resurrection Sunday | April 5 th | 6:30am | Sunrise Service |
| | | 7:30am | Easter Service with Communion |
| | | 8:30am | Fellowship Breakfast |
| | | 7:30am | Easter Service with Communion |
- **College/Military Goodie Boxes -Dontate up to April 12th**
We are collecting snack donations for our College and Military Goodie Boxes!
Donations may be placed in the designated collection boxes located at all church entrances.
- **AED Training -Sunday, April 12th – 8:45am and 11:30am**
Julie Emrhein will be training the members of our congregation on proper usage of the AED in the event of a cardiac emergency. For anyone interested, these will be held on April 12th after both services.

Ongoing

- **Bulletin and Flower Sponsorship**
You can sponsor a bulletin (\$15) or altar flowers (\$45) using the sign-up sheet on the table outside the rear sanctuary doors.
- **Cemetery Board Opening**
A volunteer is needed to fill a one-year term on the Cemetery Board.
If you are interested in serving, please contact Council President Audrey Noll.
- **Communion Kits for Home Use**
Prefilled communion kits (wafers and grape juice) are available on the table under the mailboxes for those who are not able to be in the church for the Sacrament of Communion.
- **Redner's Save-A-Tape Program**
Support the Muddy Creek Good Samaritan Fund by placing your entire (uncut) Redner's receipts in the Redner's containers at church entrances. Thanks for your support!

PARTNER MINISTRY EVENTS

Swamp Lutheran Church Widowers Group Luncheon

Thursday, April 9th | 12pm

Udder Choice Restaurant, Ephrata, PA

Join us to hear our guest speaker from Middle Creek Wildlife Management discuss habitat, migration, and the history of MCWM.

RSVP to the church office at (717) 336-2849 or secretary@swamplutheran.org

"Brenda and Friends" Bus Trips

- April 16-18 (Thurs-Sat) "The International Tattoo," Norfolk, VA
Includes: Canal Cruise, Military Aviation Museum, Oceanfront Lodging-VA Beach, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, & Marvel Carriage Museum
- April 30th (Thursday) "Some Enchanted Evening," Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
For more information, contact Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or berger@dejazzd.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

| March 22nd | Attendance | Offerings | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | 8am | 22 | Weekly \$2,958 |
| | 10:15am | 56 | Month-to-Date \$9,982 |
| | Online | 26 | |

General Fund plus Mission Support

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Received through February | \$24,980 |
| Expenses through February | \$32,521 |