

Palm Sunday

SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2026

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.marcolutheran.org

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

www.marcolutheran.org/foundation

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday, 7:30am to 3:30pm

Friday, 7:30am to 1:30pm

office@marcolutheran.org

REV. JAMES THELEN, SR. PASTOR

WORSHIP SERVICE:

PALM SUNDAY- 9:00am & 11:00am

EASTER SUNDAY- 9:00am & 11:00am

AFTER EASTER: SUNDAY AT 9:30AM

TO CONTACT CHURCH STAFF PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

(239) 394-0332

525 North Collier Blvd.

Marco Island, FL 34145

Our Mission Statement:

“At Marco Lutheran Church, we are followers of Jesus Christ who share His Good News by loving and serving all people.”



THE SHIP OF THE CHURCH

For Christians, since the days of the apostles, *THE SHIP* has been a symbol for the Christian Church. The mast and yardarm form a simple *CROSS* (in wood) which stands for Jesus who saved us by giving Himself on a cross that we might be forgiven.

The *CHI RHO* ✠ (in metal) is a combination of the first two Greek letters of the name *Christ*, meaning “The Anointed One” or “The Messiah.” *THE WAVES* symbolize the troubles and difficulties of life on earth. *THE SAILS* are filled with wind, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, which empowers the Church. Thus, the Christian Church, under the Cross of Christ, carries the faithful safely across the troubled seas of life to heaven. As we come together for worship, the cross of Christ is before us. We choose, you and I, to worship with people for whom the cross is both the sign of salvation and the sign of Christ in our lives.

A special welcome to our guests today. May you find grace and blessing in the time we spend together. If you are looking for a church home, please speak to the Pastor, the Lay Minister for the day, or an Usher. We would be most pleased to share with you ways in which you might become a regular part of our Christian fellowship.

HOLY COMMUNION – WHAT WE BELIEVE



In this Sacrament, Jesus gives us Himself, His true Body and Blood, as we receive the bread and wine. On the night He was betrayed and before He was put to death, Jesus celebrated this Meal with His disciples assuring us that each time we receive it, we are again remembering His death and receiving the full benefits of His grace, namely the forgiveness of sin.

In *1 Corinthians 11*, St. Paul says that we should “examine ourselves” ahead of time. We can do so each time we commune by asking ourselves these basic questions:

- † **Do I acknowledge the fact that I am indeed a sinner and that I am sorry for my sin?**
- † **Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from all sin?**
- † **Am I trusting in Jesus’ promise that I receive full pardon and strength through this Holy Meal?**
- † **Do I believe that the body and blood of Jesus is truly present in, with, and under the bread and the wine of Holy Communion?**
- † **Finally, with the Lord’s help, will I seek to amend my life and live in conformity with His Holy Will?**

Jesus Himself invites baptized followers who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior, who recognize their sinful condition, and who seek His forgiveness to come to His Table to receive His precious Body and Blood. May the Lord bless your personal reception as well as your daily living under His power and blessing. Should you have questions, please see a Pastor or a Lay Minister prior to the worship service. If you prefer not to participate in the sacrament,

please cross your arms when coming forward to receive a blessing. For those who prefer, **white grape juice is in the center of the tray**. There are also **gluten-free wafers** available by informing the Communion Host. For those who may have **difficulty coming to the front**, please **inform an usher** so that the Sacrament may be brought to you.

✠PREPERATION✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

Please Stand and Face the Cross

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
3. Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.

6. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
7. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.

Please be Seated

PSALM 25:1-10

Leader: O LORD, I give my life to you.

People: **I trust in you, my God! Do not let me be disgraced or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.**

Leader: No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.

People: **Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow.**

Leader: Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.

People: **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and unfailing love, which you have shown from long ages past.**

Leader: Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth. Remember me in the light of your unfailing love, for you are merciful, O LORD.

People: **The LORD is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray.**

Leader: He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way.

People: **The LORD leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Leader: ¹⁵ “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶ For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. ¹⁷ “But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, ¹⁸ then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. ¹⁹ “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! ²⁰ You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

HYMN

OPEN OUR EYES LORD

1. Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

2. Open our hearts Lord
That we might receive You
Open our spirits
And teach us to worship
Open our lips Lord
And teach us to praise You
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ²There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going."⁵ "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ**

Please Be Seated

SPECIAL MUSIC

GREAT THINGS

MLC CHOIR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

People: **Almighty God, we are called to humble ourselves and to serve one another in love, but instead, we become puffed up with pride. We look on others as less important than ourselves. We do not humble ourselves before your Word, and we do not walk in the way of love. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

Pastor: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus humbled himself, and on the cross, he suffered in our place the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. For his sake God forgives us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Behold our King has come, righteous and humble, bringing salvation to us!**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for in love and compassion You sent Your Son into our flesh so that He would obediently go, step by step, to the cross, whereby His glorious death He would accomplish salvation for us. We ask You for His sake to forgive, renew, and strengthen us as we gather now and when we join the faithful at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, O Father, be all glory with the Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

YOU ARE THE WAY, THROUGH YOU ALONE



1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant



we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
us that way to know, That truth to keep, that



God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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.

SERMON “I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE” PASTOR JIM THELEN

PASSION READING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: **Righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

HOSANA

MLC CHOIR

Announcements

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS: Joyce Maxfield, Bob Volatile, Kitty Argobright, Bob Kelley, Don Terry, Lana Davis, Greg & Diane Waltrip, Judy Karlin, Bill Hulbig, Al Wilke, Nancy Lisch

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY: Andrea Sager (Donnie & Norva Jeanne Rooksberry), Rene & Terry Maurer (Anne Rozite) Woody Barnette (Donnie & Norva Jeanne Rooksberry), John Schenckll (Lydia Krueger), Judy Resler (Dick and Vicki Ross), Don Clark Jr. (Betty Clark), Cecilia Popoff (Vicki Williams), Family Member (Judy Volker), Corey Hendricks (Flo Hendricks), Charlie Darr (Patti Naughton), Arlo James Horton (Dave & Connie Wuellner), Darlene Kent (Connie Wuellner), Eleanor Taggatz (Mark & Karen Kuhnly), Marlene Byard (Carmen Brookshaw), Kevin Carr (Marie Mahr), Ruth Naughton (Patti Naughton), Jean Holland, Joe Dolphin (Carolyn Ohman), Dan Taggatz (Mark & Karen Kuhnly), family of Kevin Moore Jr., Jack & Connie Hawkins (Dave & Connie Wuellner), Darlene Kent, Shane Silver (Nancy Carrington), Mike Naughton (Patti Naughton), Jim Cookfar, Sharon Hartung (Mike & Chris Pigeon) and those we name in our hearts.

***PLEASE LET US KNOW IF WE CAN REMOVE ANY NAMES
FROM OUR PRAYER LISTS!***

ANNIVERSARIES: Allen & Pam Wilke, Phillip & Marilyn Kostelnik

BIRTHDAYS: Jack Mahr, Betty Fry, Charlie Vollmer, Ellen Donselman, Lyle Rayner, Anne Rozite, Mary Hyatt

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

IN PERSON - SAT - 114 SUN - 334 ONLINE - 150 TOTAL- 598

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Total March Target: **\$105,700** Total March to-date (4 Sundays): **\$80,553 (76%)**
Year-to-date Target (thru Mar): **\$311,000** Actual Year-to-date: **\$277,865 (89%)**

NOTICE: Any congregants who are Thrivent members please do not forget to direct your 2025 Choice Dollars by March 31st.

IN HOME VISITATIONS: If you, or someone you know, would like to have a visit from Pastor Jim, please call the office and we can make the arrangements. Thank you!
(239) 394-0332

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS:



WAYS TO GIVE:

1. You can place your offerings in the offering boxes on either side at the front of the chancel and at the back center aisle

2. You can mail your offerings to the church.

USING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER THE GIVE TAB:

3. You can give ONLINE as either a one-time donation or regular weekly/monthly donation.

All transactions are secure and confidential

4. You can give using your phone via the Vanco APP or simply texting donations. If you have any difficulty or questions, please email financialec@marcolutheran.org

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The contribution statements for 2025 have been emailed or mailed to you on January 20, 2026. Please check your inbox and spam folder for an email

from automail@360members.com. If you haven't received your statement and would like one, please send an email to financialec@marcolutheran.org or call the office at

239-394-0332.

DISCOVER MARCO: If you are interested in becoming a member of Marco Lutheran Church or are already a member and just want to "refresh," we invite you to attend a one on-one session of the ***Discover Marco Lutheran Class*** with Pastor Jim. If you have any questions about "Discover Marco" please contact Amy at the church office **(239) 394-0332**

BECOME PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING AT MARCO LUTHERAN

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Please join us for the following Bible Studies.

TUESDAYS: **8:30AM** MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS: **10:00AM** WOMEN OF THE WORD

THURSDAYS: **10:00AM** ADULT BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS: **10:45AM** IN THE "GREAT ROOM"

FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION (AFTER WORSHIP)

~Palm Crosses~

Thank you to everybody who helped to make crosses for today!

Board of Human Care will be collecting new shoes during the month of March for children K-12. Please consider donating a new pair of shoes. The collection box will be in the narthex through the end of the month.

If you choose to make a **monetary donation**, please make the checks out to:

Marco Lutheran Church.

On the memo line - **Laces of Love**. Donations may also be made via **Vanco** online



**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY APRIL 6, 2025
FOLLOWING EASTER SUNDAY.**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:
APRIL 26, 2026, FOLLOWING SERVICE
MAIN AGENDA ITEM-ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

Events Coming Up

LACES OF LOVE - March 1st through the end of the month

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 2nd Worship Service at 5:00pm –
THE PASSOVER SEDER/THE LAST SUPPER WITH DINNER TO FOLLOW

GOOD FRIDAY - April 3rd at **Worship** at 5:00PM

EASTER - April 5th at **Worship Services** at 9:00am & 11:00am

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - April 26th at 10:45am



*Please Pick Up Your Lilies
Following the 11:00a.m.
Worship Service on Easter Sunday,*

THANK YOU TO OUR HELPFUL SERVANTS
PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY 9:00am

WORSHIP LEADER:

LAY MINISTER:

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

HEAD USHER:

USHERS:

WELCOME CENTER

TRANSPORTERS:

TECH

Dave Wuellner

Joe Hoffman

Chris Pigeon, Gwen Nesteval,
Vicki Ross

Scott Loula

Mike Pigeon, Chris Pigeon,
Bill Kaschube, Dick Ross,

Chris Pigeon, Leesa Carls

Gwen Nesteval, Vicki Ross

Dave Tobiasz, Tom Williams

SUNDAY 11:00am

WORSHIP LEADER:

LAY MINISTER:

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

HEAD USHER:

USHERS:

WELCOME CENTER:

TRANSPORTERS:

TECH:

Karen Kuhnly

Mark Kuhnly

Lili Surber, Paul Gremel,
Debbie Sanders, Bev Ertman

Scott Loula

Gary Volker, Ron Lisch,
Victor Argobright

Joe Hoffman

Judy Karlin

Lili Surber, Debbie Sanders

Dave Tobiasz

CALENDAR MARCH 29– APRIL 18

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH 29 <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> 9:00 & 11:00A WORSHIP	MARCH 30 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	MARCH 31 8:30A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30P BSF MEN & WOMEN	APRIL 1 10:00A WOW 4:00P CHOIR	APRIL 2 <u>MAUNDY</u> <u>THURSDAY</u> 10:00A BIBLE STUDY YOGA CANCELLED 5:00P WORSHIP PASSOVER/SEDER DINNER	APRIL 3 <u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> 9:00A MAHJONG 5:00P WORSHIP	APRIL 4
APRIL 5 <u>EASTER</u> 9:00A & 11:00A WORSHIP	APRIL 6 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> NO YOGA	APRIL 7 8:30A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00A WOM 1:00P OUTREACH 6:30P BSF MEN & WOMEN	APRIL 8 10:00A WOW 4:00P CHOIR 5:30P FOUNDATION	APRIL 9 10:00A BIBLE STUDY 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 1:00P COUNCIL 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	APRIL 10 9:00A MAHJONG	APRIL 11
APRIL 12 9:30A WORSHIP	APRIL 13 10:00A PROPERTY BOARD 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	APRIL 14 8:30A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00A CHRISTIAN EDUCATIOM 2:00P BOLM 6:30P BSF MEN & WOMEN	APRIL 15 10:00A WOW 11:00A LUNCH WITH FRIENDS 1:00P BOHC 4:00P CHOIR 5:30P BOOK CLUB	APRIL 16 10:00A BIBLE STUDY 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	APRIL 17 9:00A MAHJONG	APRIL 18



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