

TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - MARCH 2026

ST. PETER'S ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO
EELK Toronto Peetri Kogudus



Palm Sunday - Of horses and donkeys

When we think of Palm Sunday, we often picture the cries of "Hosanna!" and the garments and palm branches spread before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. In the East, it was customary to lay coverings along the path of someone considered worthy of great honour. In Jewish tradition, palm branches were a symbol of victory and triumph.

In a recent Facebook post, Alice Morrow-Schwarz invites us to view this event from a different perspective. With her permission, we share her reflections, offered through her own lens.

Alice writes that as children we read the stories of kings and knights, glory and triumph. In every one of those stories, the king, knight, or Prince Charming ride in on a mighty steed, a rearing stallion with flowing mane & tail. So, should Jesus (the King of Kings) triumphal entry have been on the back of a rearing, mighty stallion?

As Alice researched the subject she came across references to the Roman occupation, the soldiers who controlled Jerusalem and the people of Israel. The military used horses. Warriors, leaders of wars rode these strong animals with solid hooves and flowing mane and tail. A sense of authority and pride was worn by the rider of a horse.

A donkey on the other hand was usually ridden by a messenger. A donkey was a beast of burden, a lowly animal domesticated for labour, built for bearing heavy weight. Now imagine the weight this little donkey was carrying into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Jesus knew He was on the way to the cross. He was carrying the burden of the sin and shame of all



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Kantselei Tunnid/Office Hours

Teisipäeval/Tues. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Kolmapäeval/Wed. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Neljapäeval/Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Deacon Karl Paju

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Neljapäeval/Thurs. 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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mankind. The load this young donkey was called to bear was not just physical, but emotional and spiritual. It was the weight of the soul of Jesus. Literally the weight of the whole world rested on this young donkey's back as he bore the entire weight of Jesus, heavy soul and all, over the garments and palm leaves littering his path. A donkey had carried Mary, the mother of Jesus as she made her way to Bethlehem before His prophesied birth. And now the donkey was bearing Jesus, fulfilling the prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” (Zechariah 9:9)

Another significant piece that Alice finds about the donkey ridden by Jesus on today's parallel so many years ago, was the fact that the donkey was a colt, unbroken, never before ridden. Yes, Jesus rode in on a humble creature, a beast of burden. But God's power is displayed in that a beast, never ridden before, humbled himself in obedience to the beckoning of Jesus to do His will. This beast by nature would have rebelled against the weight he was bearing, the crowds, the shouting. But he did not rebel. He humbled himself to the service of the King. He recognized the sovereignty of his rider and made no resistance to his calling.

Alice was reminded of another passage that presents an image of the prideful horse that Jesus could have ridden in on and the humble donkey that he chose:

“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” (James 4:6)

Jesus will not always be riding a donkey. The weight of our sins no longer rests on His shoulders. He has already carried our sins. In Revelations, we see John's vision of Jesus' next triumphal entry. This time He is riding that magnificent steed.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.” (Revelation 19:11)



Jesus will return in power and might, ready to take back what this sinful world has destroyed, ready to wage war against all who have waged war against Him and His children! But for now, for Palm Sunday, He comes peacefully in preparation for the agony of His passion and the joy of His resurrection. Jesus rode into Jerusalem that day triumphantly; not as the crowd expected, the grand fulfillment of the hopes of Israel. He did not come and fill their expectations that He would be their earthly king, crushing the reign of the Roman empire. Instead, He entered humbly, giving His life freely on the cross, offering salvation to all of mankind from sin and death.

Thank you, Jesus, for teaching us by Your manner of entry that You can use us, simple beasts of burden, imperfect and unbroken if we will submit to Your calling and your guidance.

Ref: <https://www.facebook.com/AliKMorrow>

Taevane Isa, me vaatame palmipuudepüha sündmust ja oleme hämmastunud Sinu Poja alandlikkusest. Tema on kuningate Kuningas, vääriline kogu väe ja hiilguse jaoks, aga ometi otsustas Ta siseneda linna laenatud eesli seljas – rahu ja alandlikkuse sümbolina. Ta pani kõrvale oma auhiilguse, et näidata meile tõelise tugevuse teed. Issand, minu süda on sageli nii teistsugune. See on täis uhkust. Ma palun, et Sa eemaldaksid minus vajaduse maise au järele ja riietaksid mind Jeesuse kauni alandlikkusega. Õpeta mind teenima teisi ilma tänu ootamata. Aita mul juhtida tasadusega ja leida oma väärtus mitte selles, mida teised minust arvavad, vaid selles, kes ma olen – Sinu armastatud laps. Olgu mul sama meelsus nagu Kristusel, kes alandas iseennast meie pärast. Jeesuse nimel, aamen.

UUDISED / NEWS

February 1, 2026

On February 1st the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (Candlemas) Estonian worship service was held at St. Peter's. The service was led by Deacon Karl Paju, with Erik Kreem at the organ. The candle lighters were Talvi Faustmann and Ülo Isberg -- scripture readings by Susan Pruvli and Lia Pikkov.



The Toronto Estonian Male Choir performed in honour of the anniversary of the Tartu Peace Treaty. The service was followed by a fellowship coffee under the leadership of Guild chair Aida Shelton.



February 4th - Guild Meeting

The ladies of St. Peter's Guild added their stitches to the Book Year Tapestry!

2025 had been declared the Year of the Book, marking 500 years since the publication of the first printed work containing the Estonian language. To commemorate this milestone, a communal embroidery project was launched to create a pictorial Book Year tapestry illustrating key moments in Estonian book history. As the tapestry's itinerary within Estonia was fully scheduled, a second "twin" tapestry—17 meters long and divided into five sections—was created and set on a journey around the world.

In Canada, the tapestry has already been enriched by contributions from many communities and events, including the Estonian Music Week gathering, Seedrioru, Kotkajärve Forest University, dance camp NouPoisÄläud, VEMU's Book Year event, Tartu College's 55th anniversary, the Toronto Estonian Society Supplementary School, VEMU's language café, and many others.

Thank you to Tiina Jenkins who organized bringing the tapestry to the church.





Meditation Sessions - Feb. 4th & 11th

The second meditation session included focused-breathing and the importance of valuing and cherishing others. As Shantideva (687–763 AD) taught, all the happiness in the world comes from the wish that others may be happy. We reflected on why we meditate: so that we may be useful not only to ourselves, but also to others. In the second part of the practice, we imagined someone we know and reflected: “This person is important. Their happiness is important. Their freedom is important. I must always love all living beings, because this brings happiness both to me and to others.”



The final meditation session focused on rejoicing--meaning to appreciate and delight in our own happiness and good deeds, as well as those of others. By rejoicing in the good qualities of others, we fill our minds with positive energy, we are protected from painful feelings of jealousy and competitiveness, and we create the conditions to develop those same good qualities within ourselves. Toomas Sepp left us with this thought: Throughout the day, instead of looking for faults, try to rejoice in, appreciate, and enjoy your own happiness and good deeds, as well as those of others.

We thank Toomas Sepp for his time and insight, and Mäimu Mölder and the Estonian Foundation for organizing these insightful meditation sessions.

February 13th

A fun Valentine's Day afternoon took place on February 13th in the lower hall of St. Peters. The musical experience was provided by Enno Õunapuu, and an exercise break was led by Jaak Järve. Many thanks to Maimu Mölder and her volunteer helpers. We were delighted that the people from Ehatare and Eesti Kodu were able to come by bus. Sponsored by the Ehatare Foundation.



Kallid õed ja vennad Kristuses üleilma,

Tervitan Teid südamest Eesti Vabariigi 108. aastapäeval ning soovin pidupäevaks rohkelt Jumala õnnistust, armu ja hoidmist. Helisegu sel päeval meie südames palve, mida palume alati, kui laulame meie hümnid viimast salmi – „Su üle Jumal valvaku, mu armas isamaa! Ta olgu sinu kaitseja ja võtku rohkest õnnista, mis iial ette võtad sa, mu kallid isamaa!“



Juba viiendat aastat on meie riigi röömsa päeva üle Ukrainas toimuva Venemaa agressioonisõja sünge vari. Kahjuks ei ole see ainuke sõjakolle maalimas. Küsimuseks, millele ilmselt igal päeval otsime vastust, on see, kas on märke sõjavägede taandumisest? Kas on horisondil märgata rahu, õigluse, andestuse ja leppimise hommikusi päikesekiiri? Või peame varuma jõudu ja kannatlikkust, et eladagi reaalsuses, kus rahu ja julgeolek on privileeg, mitte iseenesestmõistevus. Sellega seostub küsimus meie reaktsioonist ümbritsevatele ohtudele. Küllap oleme kuulnud ütlemisi, et me pole kunagi paremini kaitstud kui täna ning tõsisemaks mureks puudub põhjus. Samas oleme kuulnud neidki hääli, milles on enam kui tõsine mure meie riigi tuleviku pärast. Küsimus tõe ja proportsionaalse reaktsiooni järele. Vaevalt et objektiivset vastust ongi, kuid teeme hästi, kui me ei püsime ohte ja samas ei kaota pead just selles olukorras, mis meil täna Eestis on. Kristlastena oleme alati hoitud ja kaitstud oma Taevase Isa kätes.

Peame olema teadlikud sellestki, et liigne tähelepanu kõigele maisele kipub omapäraselt viisil röövima meilt nii minevikku kui tulevikku. Seepärast vaadake tänasel pidupäeval siiski ka tagasi ning täna kõiki inimesi alates nendest, kes olid meie riigi sünni juures ja lõpetades nendega, kes täna annavad oma kordumatu panuse Eesti riigi ellu. Sügav kummarus kõigile, kes on hoidnud eestlust alal ning viinud seda edasi väljaspool Maarjamaa radu. Eriti peame meeles neid, kes on kannatanud ja toonud oma elu ohvriks Eesti riigi elu ja tuleviku eest. Täna Jumalat Tema armu eest eilses, mis on sama täna, homme ja igavesti.

Samuti on meil alati olemas tulevik. Maises mõttes saab see olema tõenäoliselt teistsugune, võrreldes harjumuspärasega. Arusaadavalt saavad meile järjest olulisemateks kaitse- ja julgeoleku teemad. Samuti ei saa olla ennastunnustav tarbimine ja Jumala loodu hingetu ärakasutamine tulevik Eestile, ega üheleegi teisele riigile. Ent kõige selle juures võime ja saame alati vaatama Kristusele, kelles on meie tulevik alati hoitud ja kindel. Olgu meil rahu või rahu, puudus või küllus, teame, et mitte miski ei suuda meid lahutada Kristusest ja Tema armastusest. Issandas on igavene elu, Temale saame alati olla kindlad kõigil meile kingitud päevadel ja aegadel.

Õnnistussooviga, Ove Sander, Põhja-Eesti ja Diasporaa piiskop, Roomas, 19. veebruaril A.D. 2026

February 22nd



Master of ceremonies Kati Kiilaspea

Organized by the Toronto Estonian Society, the Republic of Estonia's 108th Independence Day anniversary concert and assembly took place at St. Peter's on Sunday, February 22.



The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Ivar Raig from Estonia, who spoke on the topic: "How the secret protocols of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact were annulled on Christmas Eve 1989 and how the restoration of the Baltic states' independence was secured in Moscow."





Performers included T.E.A.S. Ööbik and the Toronto Estonian Male Choir, conducted by Erik Kreem, Rosemarie Lindau, and Elli Kipper. The prayer was delivered by Deacon Karl Paju. The honouring of war veterans and the commemoration of the fallen was conducted by Korp! Sakala member Toomas Heinar.

She emphasized that in order to achieve its goals, the small country of Estonia needs the support of all Estonians living abroad, and thanks to that support, Estonia is clearly greater than its geography.



Erik Purje spoke on behalf of the war veterans. EKN President Reet Marten Sehr, together with Ülo Isberg, presented the EKN Gold Medal of Merit to Erik Purje. The Gold Medal of Merit is awarded to volunteers whose outstanding and dedicated contributions have significantly advanced the life of the Estonian community in Canada over an extended period of time. Closing remarks were given by the Chair of the Toronto Estonian Society, Anne Liis Keelmann.

Tiina Tarkus, from the Estonian Embassy in Ottawa, welcomed those in attendance. She highlighted the words of Estonia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Margus Tsahkna, noting that in today's world, previously agreed-upon rules and norms may no longer apply — the old has passed, yet the new is still unclear.





Kõigeväeline Jumal, me täname Sind Eesti Vabariigi aastapäeval meie maa ja rahva eest. Täname, et oled kinkinud meile oma riigi, vabaduse ja kodu. Palume, õnnista ja hoiu Eestimaad! Anna meie riigijuhtidele tarkust, meelekindlust ja õiglustunnet. Kingi meie rahvale ühtsust, hoolivust ja rahu. Kaitse meie piire, anna meile julgust ja tugevust seista tõe ning õiguse eest. Olgu meie maa ja rahvas hoitud Sinu armu all. Õnnista ja hoiu meid, nüüd ja igavesti. Aamen.

TECHNOLOGY WORKING FOR YOU

At St. Peter's, our fellowship reaches beyond our walls. Faith; Community; Connection -- St. Peter's is just a click away by website, Facebook, or YouTube.

We're excited to remind everyone that our church has a website, a Facebook Page and a YouTube channel. These platforms make it easy to stay connected, revisit sermons, and share our services with family and friends who may not be able to attend in person.

St. Peter's Website -

At our website, read about our history, building architecture, memorials, ministers who have served, how to get involved and much more. Our calendar is regularly updated with new events. www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca



St. Peter's Facebook Page -

We invite you to visit and follow our church Facebook page to stay updated on upcoming events, special announcements, inspirational messages, and photos from our services. Our page is a great way to remain encouraged, share what God is doing in our church, and invite others to join our growing community. Be sure to like, follow, and share the page with your friends and family!

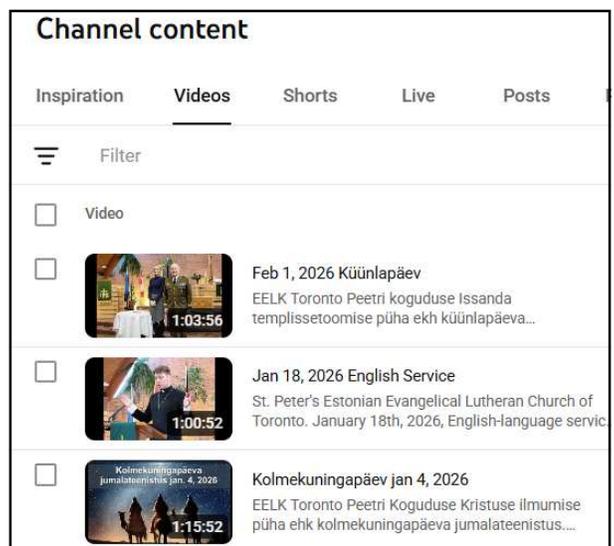
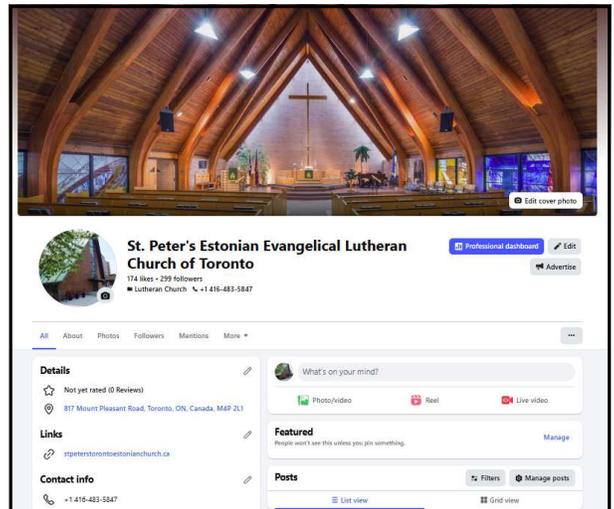
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St. Peter's YouTube Channel -

Have you missed a service? In addition to being posted to our website, here you have access to past services that have been recorded.

www.youtube.com/@eelktorontopeetrikogudus8966

We invite you to subscribe to our social media sites and monthly Sower bulletin. Visit our website and sites throughout the week as we continue to journey and grow together in faith.



If Moses had received the 10 Commandments via text message

1. no1 b4 me. srsly.
2. dnt wrshp pix/idols
3. no omg's
4. no wrk on w/end (sat 4 now; sun l8r)
5. pos ok ur m&d r cool
6. dnt kill ppl
7. :-X only w/ m8
8. dnt steal
9. dnt lie re: bf
10. dnt ogle ur bf's m8. or ox. or dnkey. myob.

ttyl, JHWH.

ps. wwjd?

NOTICE / TÄHELEPANU

We are grateful and blessed to share our space at St. Peter's with the The Salvation Army and the Toronto Open Korean Church. At times, our services and events are scheduled close together, and we ask everyone to be mindful and respectful of whatever service or gathering is taking place in the Nave or other rooms.



Oleme väga tänulikud, et saame jagada oma kiriku ruume koos Salvation Army ja Toronto Open Korean Church kogudustega. Mõnikord toimuvad meie jumalateenistused ja muud üritused ajaliselt üsna lähedastiku ning palume kõigil sõbralikult arvestada sellega, kui kirikus või teistes ruumides on parajasti mõni teenistus või koosviibimine.

Out of courtesy and respect for those gathered in worship, we kindly ask everyone to refrain from entering or peeking into the Nave when another congregation is holding its service. Please keep the interior hall doors closed, and conversations and noise to a minimum in the hallway and entry areas.

Kui teise koguduse jumalateenistus on käimas ja sisehallide uksed on suletud, palume mitte kirikusse siseneda ega sisse piiluda. Samuti oleksime tänulikud, kui hoiate vestlused ja liikumise koridorides ja sissepääsualadel võimalikult vaiksed, et mitte segada teenistusel viibijaid.

If a service is in progress, you may enter the Nave through the front main church doors opening onto Mt. Pleasant. Please don't keep the door open, but rather quietly find a seat to not disrupt the ongoing service.

Kui jumalateenistus juba toimub, on võimalik kirikusse siseneda peaukse kaudu, mis avaneb Mt. Pleasantile. Palun ärge hoidke ust lahti vaid leidke vaikselt istekoht ja liituge teenistusega nii, et see kulgeks rahulikult edasi.

Your thoughtfulness helps maintain a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere for all. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Teie hoolivus ja tähelepanelikkus aitavad hoida kirikus rahulikku ja palvemeelset õhkkonda. Suur tänu mõistva suhtumise ja koostöö eest!

Please join us on

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3rd, 2026

11:30 English-language Service

Deacon Karl Paju - organist Erik Kreem

Fun Fact -

Did you know, that it is said that it takes 70–80 hours for an average reader to read the Bible - 50 hours of which will be spent reading the Old Testament. That is roughly 3 days of non-stop reading!

A group of Haitian pastors on the island of La Gonave decided to test this out. The pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in the mountain town of Grand Source challenged his youth group to see how long it would take them to read the Bible aloud in Haitian Creole. He invited the people in their mountain village to come and listen whenever they had time.

On a Monday, the young people started reading the Bible aloud from the platform of their church building. Reading in 15-minute shifts for about 15 hours a day, those young people in Haiti read the Bible aloud all the way through in a little over 79 hours!

EASTER

Sunday, April 5th - 11:30 a.m.
Estonian Service with Communion

Reverend Ando Kass - Deacon Karl Paju
Organist Erik Kreem - St. Peter's Choir

Easter Brunch following the service - \$40.
Please register your attendance with the office at 416-483-5847 by March 29th.

CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS / JUMALA-TEENISTUSED & ÜRITUSED*

***New events may be added to the calendar—please check our church website for any additions. www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/event-calendar**

- March 4 - (Wednesday) Guild Meeting at 12:00 noon. New members welcome!
- March 4 - (Wednesday) 7 - 8:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal with Erik Kreem in the Nave. New singers welcome!
- March 8 - (Sunday) 11:30 a.m. English-language service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem. Fellowship following the service.
- March 11 - (Wednesday) 7 - 8:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal with Erik Kreem in the Nave. New singers welcome!
- March 18 - (Wednesday) 7 - 8:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal with Erik Kreem in the Nave. New singers welcome!
- March 22 - (Sunday) 3:00 p.m. Estonian service with Deacon Karl Paju at Ehatare.
- March 25 - (Wednesday) 7 - 8:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal with Erik Kreem in the Nave. New singers welcome!
- March 29 - (Sunday) 11:30 a.m. Palm Sunday bilingual service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem. Moms, Pops, & Tots and Sunday School. Fellowship following the service in the Guild room.
- April 1 - (Wednesday) 7 - 8:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal with Erik Kreem in the Nave. New singers welcome!
- April 3 - (Friday) Good Friday 11:30 a.m. English Service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem.
- April 5 - (Sunday) Easter Sunday 11:30 a.m. Estonian Service including communion with Reverend Ando Kass, Deacon Karl Paju, and organist Erik Kreem. Singing will be St. Peter's Choir. An Easter brunch for \$40 will follow the service -- we ask that you please register your attendance in advance by calling the church office 416-483-5847 by March 29th.

"Vaimulikud loosungid 2026" (\$10) on kohale jõudnud. Palun võtke ühendust meiega kui soovite koopiati! stpeterstoronto@rogers.com või 416-483-5847

Church Office Hours:

Tues. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Deacon Karl Paju's Office Hours:

Thursdays from
12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

To request prayers, please contact
St. Peter's office.

*Eestpalved võib igal ajal kirjalikult
esitada kiriku kontorisse:
stpeterstoronto@rogers.com*

If you have not already done so,
please ensure that the church has
your up-to-date contact information.

*Kui teie ei ole juba teinud, palun
saatke oma kehtivad andmed
(postiaadress, epost, ja telefoni-
number) kiriku kantseleisse:
416-483-5847.*



A group of four-year-olds were being questioned by their teacher in a Sunday School class. Looking across at those bright little faces, the teacher asked this question: "Does anyone know what today is?" A little girl held up her hand and said, "Yes, today is Palm Sunday." "That's fantastic!" the teacher said. "Now does anyone know what next Sunday is?" The same little girl lifted her hand. "Yes," she said, "next Sunday is Easter Sunday." The teacher was all smiles. "Oh, very good. Now...does anyone know what makes next Sunday Easter?" On a roll the same little girl responded, "Yes, next Sunday is Easter because Jesus rose from the grave." Before the impressed teacher could congratulate her, however, the girl added, "but if He sees His shadow, He has to go back in for seven weeks."