

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for Palm Sunday**

*March 24, 2024*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Cantilena* - Robert Lau

**Welcome and Announcements**

- Maundy Thursday: March 28, 6:30 pm, Chapel
- Easter carry-in brunch (March 31)
- Easter Basket of Hope collection
- One Great Hour of Sharing special offering through Easter

**Prelude:** *Via Dolorosa*

**Introit:** *Draw Nigh to Jerusalem* David H. Williams

**Call to Worship:**

We claim God's salvation in Christ our Savior with the word:

**Hosanna, hosanna!**

An unlikely king, he rides into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey never before ridden

**and still we recognize him:**

We find God's majesty in this humble man who leads a bunch of ragtag followers!

**Let us worship Christ with thanksgiving for his hope-filled entry into our lives.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

**Holy One, we thank you for your promise to provide for us. You clothe the lilies of the field and feed the sparrow. We thank you that today hope rolls into town, a response to all the times we have looked around and found no answers. Glory to you for hearing our cries and for saving us. On this day, remind us that you always extend your grace to us. May we wave our palm branches with the assurance that you are with us, even as you make your way to the cross. Amen.**

**Hymn #197:** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Christ comes to the center of our busy, conflicted lives.

**He comes in triumph and humility. He comes in glory and in mercy.  
He comes knowing the best of who we are, and he comes knowing our worst.**

Trusting in God's grace, let us make our confession.

## Prayer of Confession

**Christ our Redeemer, try as we might, we do not follow your example. We do not empty ourselves, we do not humble ourselves, we are not obedient. You simply ask us to care about this world you created, but we fail to do even that. Forgive us. You have given us the greatest, clearest example of love. Heal us, and help us to follow. Amen**

## Declaration of Pardon

Even in the face of hatred and violence, **We know that Christ loves us.**  
Even when enduring death, **Christ cares for us;**  
Christ forgives us. **Thanks be to the God of mercy.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

**Gloria #196:** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* vs. 3 *(please stand)*

**Anthem:** *Ride On! Ride On!* Graham George

## Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the world, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *(brief silence)*

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**Hymn #274:** *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* (seated)

## **Prayer for Illumination:**

**Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.**

## **Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 50:4 – 9a

**Epistle Lesson:** Philippians 2:5 - 11

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 11:1 - 11

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:**

“Applause or Decision”

Rev. Bob Morrison

**Affirmation of Faith**

*(please stand)*

*Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage AK*

**We believe in the God who is the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud.**

**We trust in our Holy Parent who judges and shows mercy.**

**We hope in our Creator who is faithful to all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in the Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem.**

**We trust in the Messiah who was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**We hope in the living Christ who walked out of the tomb.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and formation.**

**We trust in the Breath of Life who stirs, sustains, and sanctifies.**

**We hope in our Advocate who brings to us, and through, us the gift of God's peace.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

*(please be seated)*

**Offertory Hymn #708:**

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

vs. 1, 2

**Prayer of Dedication:** *Rev. Nathan Williams, Covenant Presbyterian Church, West Des Moines, IA*

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name, Lord!**

**With these gifts, we would follow you**

**even as you lead us into the deepest sacrifice.**

**We glory in the drama of your salvation.**

**We give you thanks, because you are good,**

**because your faithful love lasts forever. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #200:**     *A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*           (stand)

**Benediction:** *Rev. Jason Carle, Overland Park Presbyterian Church*       (remain standing)

One: Jesus' face turns toward the cross.

**All: Even if we wish to look away, we shall not.**

One: We will watch what comes though our hearts may break.

**All: In the breaking, we shall be made whole.**

One: This is our blessing: that Love endured death for us.

**All: And then, there was something new. . .**

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* - David Lasky

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