

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service Passion/Palm Sunday**

March 29, 2026

Pre-Service Music:

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude:

Introit: *Ride On! Ride On!* Graham George Chancel Choir

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

What will we lay down as Christ passes by?

We have no cloaks today, but we will lay down our hearts, our hopes, and our lives.

As the crowds in Jerusalem cried out long ago, we echo,

Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

**God of all the ages, make us real or make us nothing.
As we sing “Hosanna!” bring us to the foot of the cross.
As we wave palms, show us your tomb. On this day of praise and passion, help us to hold the tension between life and death and to learn the mystery that you are in both. Teach us to turn our faces toward you and help us to bear witness, that we might testify always to your faithfulness. Amen.**

Opening Hymn #197 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!* (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 Forgiveness

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

Lenten Response #775: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* vs. 1

Anthem: *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn* Carl Schalk

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

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 #226 *There in God's Garden* vs. 1 - 4 (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 50:4 – 9a

Second Lesson: Phillipians 2:5 - 11

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 27:11 - 54

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

Thanks be to God. *1 Corinthians 1:23–25*

Sermon:

Jonathan Kimball

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we bend our knees and lift up our hearts, giving glory to God forever. **Amen.** *Philippians 2:9–11*

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.09*

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #711: *Lord of All Good* vs. 1

Prayer of Dedication:

God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

Sending Hymn #198: *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* (stand)

Charge and Benediction: (remain standing)

May the steadfast love of God, the abundant grace of Jesus Christ, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.** Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: If any wish to be my disciples let them take up the cross and follow me. **Amen.** Mark 8:34

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

Postlude:

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