

**The United Methodist Church at Absecon**

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*Unlikely Allies:  
Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus*

*March 29, 2026*

Today's Lay Reader: Jacob Hackett

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

Ride On, O King, Ride On

Gilbert Martin

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

**People:** **We come, ready to embrace unexpected allies.**

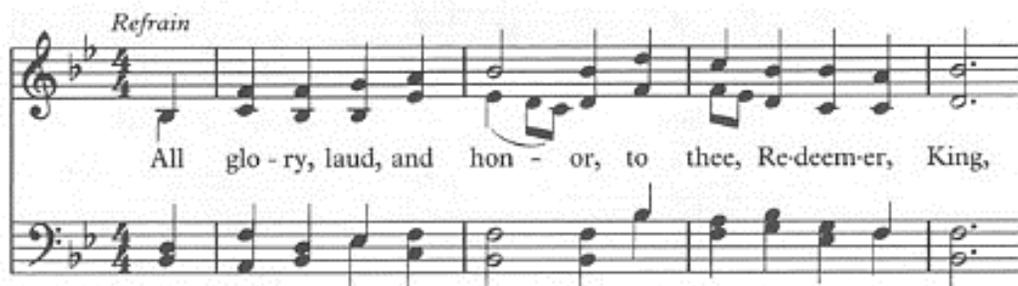
**Leader:** When people are labeled and avoided because of assumptions, we limit what can do in our lives through those people.

**People:** **Let us be open to the unexpected allies around us. Let's build relationships. Let's look for joy and hope. And let's be open to receiving them from unexpected sources.**

## Hymn

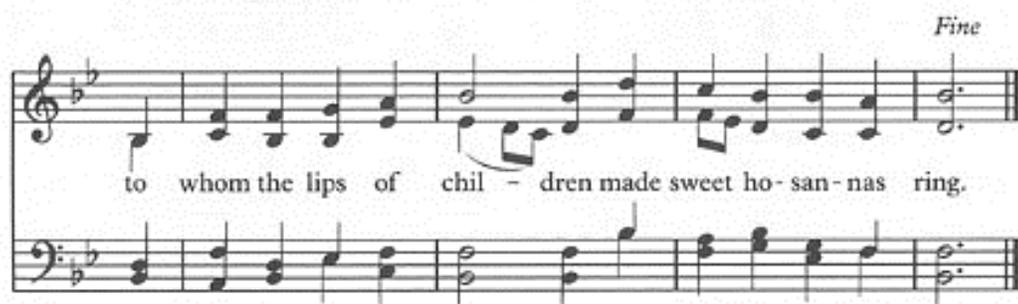
## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Refrain*

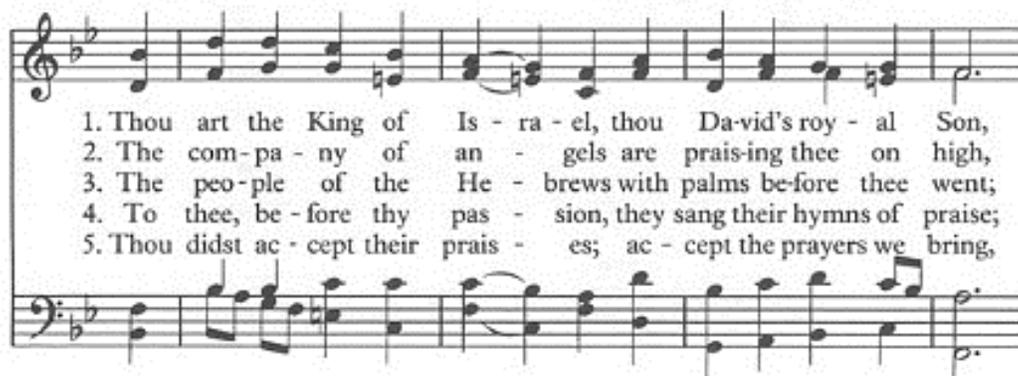


All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or, to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

*Fine*

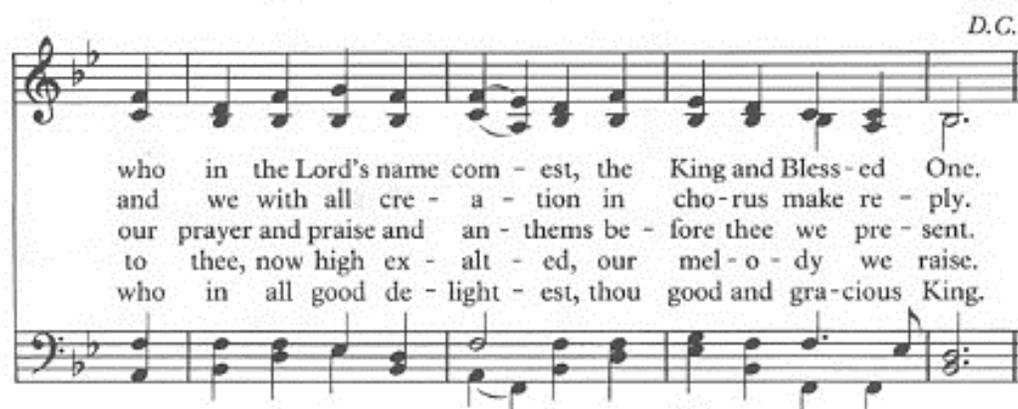


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring.



1. Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da-vid's roy - al Son,
2. The com-pa - ny of an - gels are prais-ing thee on high,
3. The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms be-fore thee went;
4. To thee, be-fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*D.C.*



who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
and we with all cre - a - tion in cho-rus make re - ply.  
our prayer and praise and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King.

## Opening Prayer

**Almighty God, thank you for journeying with us throughout these forty days. Thank you for teaching us to notice you in the unexpected people and places in our lives, and in your Word. Help us to resist the temptation of assumption. Help us to give people space to be who you created them to be. Help us to practice forgiveness and hospitality, knowing that you might use the most unexpected people to reach us. Amen.**

## Pastoral Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Chorus

#### Hosanna

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!  
Lord we lift up your name with hearts full of praise;  
Be exalted, oh Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, Glory. Glory to the King of kings!  
Glory, Glory, Glory to the King of kings!  
Lord we lift up your name with hearts full of praise;  
Be exalted, oh Lord my God! Glory to the King of kings!

#### Senior Choir

Hosanna to the Son of David

Michael Barrett

## Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

### Scripture Lesson

John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

**People: Thanks be to God**

Message

# Unlikely Allies:

## Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

### Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Llanfyllin

Jack C. Goode

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 6](#) of this document.

Communion Anthem

In Remembrance of Me

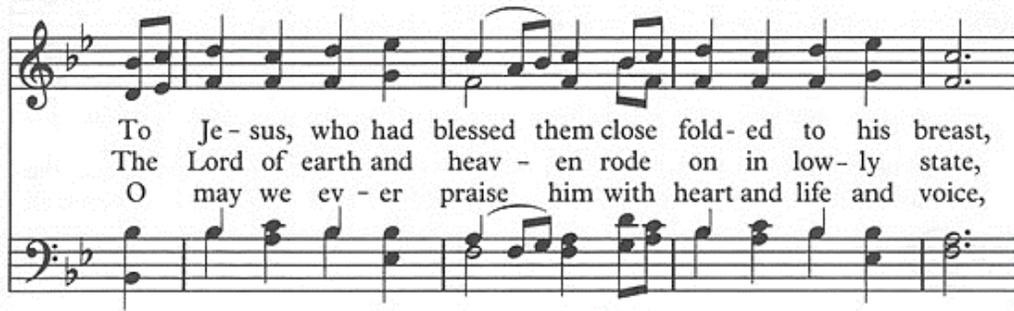
Buryl Red

Hymn 278

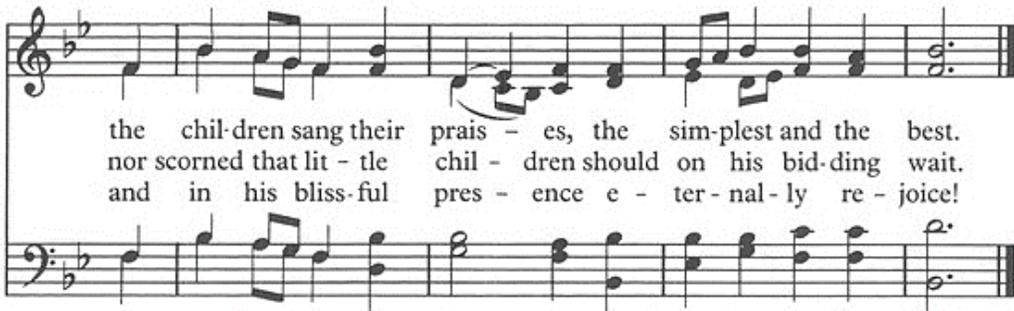
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,  
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.  
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.  
for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,  
The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

arr. Lani Smith

## A Service of Word and Table

### Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### Confession and Pardon

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

*The people sing their response:*

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of  
power and might. Heav - en and earth are  
full of your glo - - - -  
- ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -  
est! Blest is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

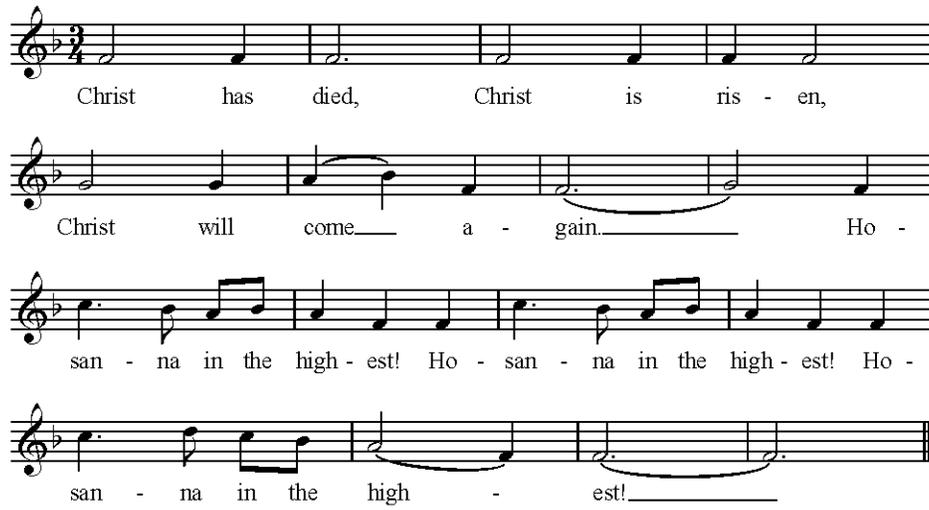
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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

*The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:* And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*The people sing their response:*

## Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,  
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*  
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.*

**ALL: Amen!**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Giving the Cup**