

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude – *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Robert J. Powell

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

God of all the ages, 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.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Charlie Parkman

Call to Worship (responsive)

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!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Procession 196 – *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

* 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 (unison)

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.
(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

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 Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Alicia Westbrook

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.

First Reading – Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible pg. 802

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Ride On, King Jesus*

arr. Moses Hogan

Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquering king. Oh, ride on, King Jesus ride on.

No man, can hinder thee. I was but young when I begun. No man, can hinder thee.

But now my race is almost done. No man, can hinder thee. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquering king. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on.

No man, can hinder thee.

King Jesus rides a milk white horse. No man, can hinder thee. The river of Jordan he did cross. No man, can hinder thee. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, Ride on the conquering king. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man, can hinder thee.

He's the King and the Lord of all. No man, can hinder thee. He's the first and the last.

He's the Lord of Lords. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. No man, can hinder thee.

On, ride on, King Jesus, ride on, just ride on, Jesus. Ride on, King Jesus, ride on.

No man, can hinder thee. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on, just ride on, Jesus.

Second Reading – Matthew 27:11-54

pew Bible pg. 810

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *The Crowd*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Croftwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 218 – *Ah, Holy Jesus*

* Affirmation of Faith: *Adapted from The Confession of 1967, 9.09 (unison)* –

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.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness and suffering; therefore, with boldness, let us seek God's grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . . Let the mind of Christ Jesus be in us—giving away the riches of heavenly glory, taking the place of humble service on earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . . Let the whole earth tremble this day—not with the fear of destruction, but with the hope of redemption. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . . Let the nations see your suffering servant—who vindicates victims of violence, who sustains the weary with a word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . . Let us stand with those who suffer—the outcast, despised, and forsaken; prisoners, and those condemned to death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . . Let your face shine upon the weak—those who spend their lives in sorrow, those whose souls and bodies waste away. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers, knowing that you alone can provide grace to help in our time of need; in the name of our great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Invitation to Offering

Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless*

G. Winston Cassler

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,
all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

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.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 223 – *When I Survey*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

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.**

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

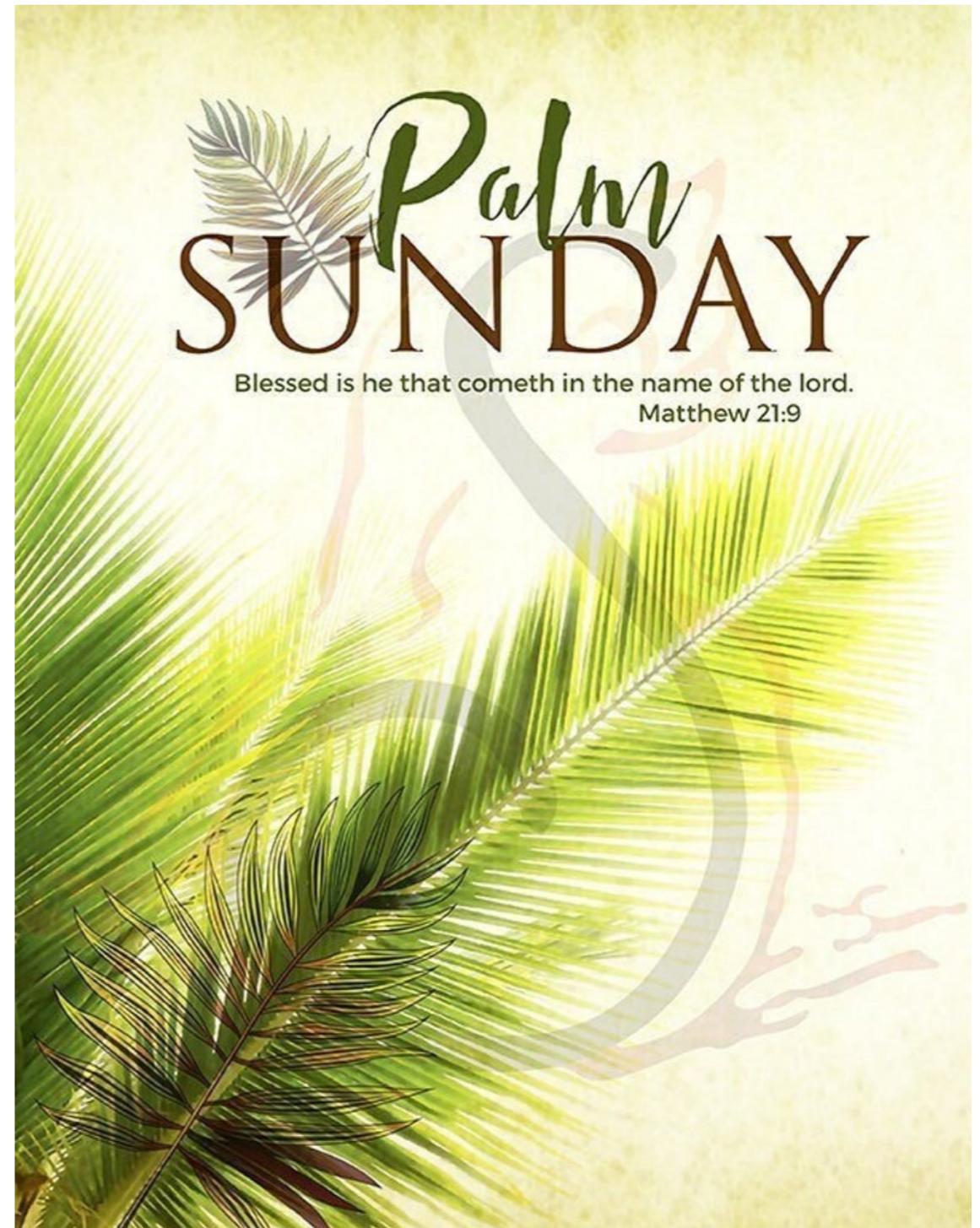
* Postlude – *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Robert J. Powell



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created by the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(* new added prayers)

*Janet Baldwin – family issues

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

*Dutchie Bryant – recovering from fall

Larry & Margaret Burge of Poplarville, friend of Michael Yore – Larry has cancer

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset dementia

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

*Erica Gilmore, friend of Janet Baldwin – family issues

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Lee Graham, Pam Love's son-in-law – health issues

Jim Harris, Dixie Coats' brother-in-law's father – in hospital with serious health issues

Mckenna Hawkins, daughter of Michael Yore's friend – cancer

Charles "Rocky" Hartfield, friend of Pam Love – health issues

Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister – continued strength through addiction recovery

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

B.J. Lambert

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – broken shoulder

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

*Jerry Spann, friend of Ruthie Davis – cancer

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For family and friends of Eric Reidenbach whose sister passed away last week.

There will be a memorial service for Peggy and Bill Langnecker, on April 17, at 11 a.m.
at Poplarville First United Methodist Church.



Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

The April/May Today devotionals (large print) are on the narthex cabinet.

The **Youth** will not meet today.

Meistersinger concert today at 3:00 p.m. **Tickets are required.**

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

No Wednesday night supper or activity.

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Men of the Church will meet on Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.

Growing Spiritually will meet today, Sunday, after worship.

The nominating committee would like for the congregation to have input into selecting deacons and elders.

If you would like to suggest someone, please contact Jeff Haydel (jhaydel@gmail.com) or Connie Roberts (cdroberts4@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events

Today - Meistersingers concert at 3:00 p.m.

April 2 - Maundy Thurs. at 6:00 p.m.

April 3 - Good Friday at noon

April 5 - Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.

Brunch/Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m.

Worship/Communion 10:30 a.m.

There is a **sign-up sheet** in the bulletin for the Easter brunch. Please place it in the offering plate.



To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.



It is time to purchase Easter lilies. A signup sheet is on the narthex cabinet. The cost is \$15 per lily. **Today is the deadline.** Please leave

money or a check in a brown envelope and put in the pink box on the narthex cabinet. This is a fundraiser for the youth and children's summer camps.

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