

# Order of Worship

**PALM SUNDAY**

**APRIL 13, 2025**

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## **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

God of all time,  
as we prepare to worship you today and this week,  
help us to call to mind these events in Jesus' life  
so that we can see their significance for our present lives  
and for the future you are preparing for all creation.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.



**PALM PROCESSIONAL** (*from the port cochere into the Sanctuary*)

## **WELCOME AND INTIMATIONS**

**PRELUDE** *In the Cross of Christ*-- arr. Eleanor Whitsett

Jessye Whitis, pianist; Carol Tyson, organist

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

**\*HYMN # 196 All Glory, Laud and Honor**

## **\*PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION**

We praise you, O God,  
for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.  
He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph  
and was proclaimed Messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Just as we carry these branches,  
may we follow Christ in the way of the cross that,  
dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who on this day received the worship of those who hailed you as their King:  
Accept our praise and adoration, our worship and love;  
grant that we, who now confess you with our lips,  
may never fail to give you the service of our lives,  
for the honor of your holy name,  
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

Loving Father, as we journey with your Son in this week of remembrance and hope, help us to understand you and your love for the world more clearly. Transform us by the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and prepare us for service in your kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Merciful God,  
as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer,  
turn our hearts again to Jerusalem,  
to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
that, united with Christ and all the faithful,  
we may one day enter in triumph  
the city not made by human hands,  
the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens,  
where, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
Christ lives in glory forever. Amen.

God of all,  
you gave your only-begotten Son to take the form of a servant  
and to be obedient even to death on a cross.  
Give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus  
that, sharing in his humility,  
we may come to be with him in his glory,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and later pronounced, “Crucify him,” we are fickle people who often deny Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Remembering the events of Jesus’ last week helps us see ourselves for what we are: sinners in need of a savior, a savior—praise God—we have in Christ. In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God.

#### **\*PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**O King of Glory,  
we confess that our praise of your majesty has often been faint,  
our performance as citizens of your kingdom treasonous.  
For we have surrendered to the enemy by our secret and our known sins. For our treason you died, Lord Jesus. For our restoration, you rose again.  
Draw us closer to you in this Holy Week,  
that our eyes may catch the vision of your tears,  
and our hearts, the wonder of your grace.  
By the Holy Spirit’s continuing discipline,  
let us be loyal and loving servants of the King.  
Praise be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Loving God,  
you rode a donkey and came in peace,  
humbled yourself and gave yourself for us.

**We confess our lack of humility.  
As you entered Jerusalem,  
the crowds shouted, "Hosanna: Save us now!"  
On Good Friday they shouted, "Crucify!"  
We confess our praise is often empty.  
We sing Hosanna but cry Crucify.  
As the crowd laid their palms in front of you  
you took the way of God: you took no glory for yourself.  
We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way.  
We do not stay true to your will.  
Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118: 4-5, 14, 17, NRSV  
Let those who fear the Lord say,  
His steadfast love endures forever.  
Out of my distress I called on the Lord;  
the Lord answered me and set me free.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.  
I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.  
In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!  
In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

**CHORAL ANTHEM** *The King of Glory* – by Lloyd Larson

Jessye Whitis, director; Carol Tyson, organist

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Eternal God,  
whose word silences the shouts of the mighty:  
Quiet within us every voice but your own.  
Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ  
that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we may receive grace to show Christ's love  
in lives given to your service. Amen.

**READING OF THE SCRIPTURES** Luke 19:28-40

**REFLECTIONS** *Wearing Jesus' Shoes*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** The Apostles' Creed - Page 35 in GTG

**\*HYMN # 197** *Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna*

**CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND OFFERING**

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. — Luke 9:23, NRSV

**OFFERTORY** *Cross Medley* – arr. James Innes

Jessye Whitis, pianist; Carol Tyson, organist

**\*DOXOLOGY # 606 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***

**PALM SUNDAY OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

The crowds offered you their coats to walk on,  
they waved palm branches, honoring your presence.

Today we honor you, Lord,  
with our faithful tithes and offerings.

We lay these gifts before you,  
humble tokens of our love,  
a public display of affection for our King of kings.

Amen.

**CLOSING PRAYERS**

God of mercy,  
you are full of tenderness and compassion,  
slow to anger, rich in mercy,  
always ready to forgive.

Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ,  
that in every way we may prove  
to be your loving children through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

God of all times and places,  
in Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross,  
you opened for us the path to eternal life.

Grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit,  
may joyfully serve you in newness of life  
and faithfully walk in your holy ways  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Hear us now as we pray together, **“Our Father...”**

**HYMN OF SENDING # 198 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!***

**BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

May God, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, help us this week  
to take up the cross and follow him. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** *To God Be the Glory*

Jessye Whitis, pianist; Carol Tyson, Organist

*Liturgy from: —Companion to the Revised Common Lectionary, Volume 3, All Age Worship Year B, p. 49, alt. © Judy Jarvis and Donald Pickard, 1999. Used by permission.*