

Liturgy of the Palms

Words of Welcome

On Palm Sunday, we begin worship in the Fellowship Hall, shouting “Hosanna! Save Us!” After the reading and songs, we’ll process into the sanctuary for the reading of the Passion Narrative.

* Call to Worship

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

* Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

* Anthem

Sing, Jerusalem, Sing

Yannerella

* Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem

Mark 11:1–11

* Procession into the Church

* Hymn 853

*We Are Marching in the Light of God
We are marching in the light of God;
We are marching in the light of God.*

* Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain:

*All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!*

*1 Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David’s royal Son,
who in the Lord’s name comest,
the King and blessed One. (Refrain)*

*2 The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems
before thee we present. (Refrain)*

*3 To thee, before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. (Refrain)*

*4 Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King! (Refrain)*

Liturgy of the Passion

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 50:4–9a

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,[a]
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

6 I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

8 he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

9 It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:1-15:47

14 It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus[a] by stealth and kill him; **2** for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people." **3** While he was at Bethany in the

house of Simon the leper,^[b] as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. **4** But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? **5** For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii,^[c] and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. **6** But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. **7** For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. **8** She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. **9** Truly I tell you, wherever the good news^[d] is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." **10** Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. **11** When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. **12** On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" **13** So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, **14** and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' **15** He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." **16** So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. **17** When it was evening, he came with the twelve. **18** And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." **19** They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" **20** He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread^[e] into the bowl^[f] with me. **21** For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." **22** While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." **23** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. **24** He said to them, "This is my blood of the^[g] covenant, which is poured out for many. **25** Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." **26** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **27** And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.'

28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." **29** Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." **30** Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." **31** But he said vehemently, "Even though I must

die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same. **32** They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. **34** And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." **35** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** He said, "Abba,^[h] Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." **37** He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? **38** Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;^[i] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **39** And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. **40** And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. **41** He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." **43** Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. **44** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." **45** So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. **46** Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. **47** But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. **48** Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? **49** Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." **50** All of them deserted him and fled. **51** A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, **52** but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. **53** They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. **54** Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. **55** Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. **56** For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. **57** Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, **58** "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" **59** But even on this point their testimony did not agree. **60** Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" **61** But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah,^[j] the Son of the Blessed One?" **62** Jesus said, "I am; and

'you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of the Power,'

and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? **64** You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. **65** Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him. **66** While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. **67** When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." **68** But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt.^[k] Then the cock crowed.^[l] **69** And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." **70** But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." **71** But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." **72** At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

15 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. **2** Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." **3** Then the chief priests accused him of many things. **4** Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." **5** But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. **6** Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. **7** Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. **8** So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. **9** Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" **10** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. **11** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. **12** Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do^[m] with the man you call^[n] the King of the Jews?" **13** They shouted back, "Crucify him!" **14** Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" **15** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. **16** Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters^[o]); and they called together the whole cohort. **17** And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. **18** And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" **19** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. **20** After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. **21** They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and

Rufus. **22** Then they brought Jesus^[u] to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). **23** And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. **24** And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. **25** It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. **26** The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." **27** And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.^[q] **29** Those who passed by derided^[j] him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, **30** save yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. **32** Let the Messiah,^[s] the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. **33** When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land^[t] until three in the afternoon. **34** At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^[u] **35** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." **36** And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." **37** Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he^[v] breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"^[w] **40** There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. **41** These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. **42** When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, **43** Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. **44** Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. **45** When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. **46** Then Joseph^[x] bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body,^[y] wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. **47** Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body^[z] was laid.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Responding

Anthem

No Rose Bloomed in Gethsemane
Alice Buzzard, Flute

Martin

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Give at lovejoyupc.org/give

Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our neighbors with essential needs on an emergency basis.

Offering of Letters

Bread for the World

We have the opportunity to participate in an offering of letters in support of policies that end hunger in our country and around the world.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Sung call to Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Hymn 469

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

Sending

*Hymn 228

Were You There

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)*

*5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)*

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Lacrimosa (Day of Sorrow)

Verdi

Worship Notes

Ann French is our Director of Music. Thanks to Michael & Robert Musgrave-Perkins and Alice Buzzard for their technology gifts. Thanks also to our liturgist for the day. Parts of today's service are adapted from The Book of Common Worship and Call to Worship.

Land Acknowledgment

The LoveJoy United community gathers on the traditional land of the Tamaroa People, who have been its faithful stewards for generations. We acknowledge and honor the past, present, and future of the Tamaroa and other Indigenous peoples who have been displaced from their ancestral homelands.

Announcements

Announcements marked with  are opportunities that relate to our Matthew 25 commitment.

Holy Week at LoveJoy United

- Palm Sunday | March 24 at 10:15 a.m. | Worship will begin in the Fellowship Hall
- Maundy Thursday | March 28 at 6 p.m. | Worship will take place over a simple dinner in the Fellowship Hall
- Easter Sunday | March 31 at 10:15 a.m. | Worship with Communion

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering & Fish Banks

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We will collect the fish banks on Easter. Other gifts can be made at lovejoyupc.org/give.

Lenten Focus on Poverty - Today at 6 PM


As we work towards eradicating systemic poverty, you're invited to join us in reading "Poverty, by America," by the Pulitzer Prize winning author and poverty researcher, Matthew Desmond. Books are free to those who participate. We'll meet on Sunday evenings at 6 PM (in-Person and Zoom) from February 18 – March 24. Sign up at lovejoyupc.org or in the Narthex.

Church Women United invites you to Wednesday Lenten Services & Lunch around Alton

Lenten services begin at noon and last 30 minutes, followed by lunch served at the Host Church. The lunch is homemade soup, sandwiches, dessert and a drink. A donation of \$5 helps to cover the cost of the lunch. An offering will be collected at the end of the service to be split between two charities in the community, The Crisis Food Center and The Oasis Women's Center. Here is their schedule: <http://bit.ly/3OPHUjC>

CALLING ALL GRADUATES The Christian Education for Children & Youth Committee is gathering the names of High School and College graduates to be honored in May. If you know any graduates who have had a participating

connection to LUPC or one of the former merged churches, contact Tabitha Nail, Tacoma Monroe, or Ken Webster.

 **Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry needs shampoo and deodorant. Your donations are always appreciated.

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club

Lyceum Book Club's current book is HORSE by Geraldine Brooks. We ZOOM it on 04/17 @ 7:15p.

Per Capita Giving in the Presbyterian Church

LoveJoy United will pay \$36 per member in 2024 to fund the work of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery that serves the churches in its care, the national Office of General Assembly that brings us together to discern the Spirit's leading, the Office of Stated Clerk that provides leadership for Presbyterians nationwide and the Presbyterian Mission Agency that oversees the work of the Presbyterian church for others here and around the world.

To help the congregation meet this financial obligation, many members of LoveJoy United choose to help offset the cost of Per Capita for themselves or family members. **Per Capita for 2024 is \$36/person.** You can send a check or pay online at lovejoyupc.org/give.

Sunday Morning Live (Adult Christian Education), Sundays at 9 AM in-person and on Zoom.

Pour yourself a cup of coffee and join a group of adults in an informal conversation around the themes of Christian Practices. Join in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom (<https://lovejoyupc.org/live> and click "connect via Zoom").

Wednesdays at LoveJoy United

- **Lectionary Bible Study In-Person or Zoom at 10:15 AM** - Join pastor Daniel and a number of others as we discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.
- **Lunch Bunch gathers on Wednesdays at 11:30 AM**
- **Zoom Evening Prayer at 7 PM**

PRAYER CONCERNS

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, Katie Davis, Jessica Elledge, John Gremler & the Gremler Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks in KY, TN, FL, MO, Mason Inlow, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Carol Foraker, Landon Stockhoff, Annabel Gibson, Mark Carter (Alice Carter's husband, back surgery), Spencer Slayden (Jack and Dottie Kleinert's grandson, Scott and Kelly Slayden's oldest son, deployed to Middle East), Wendy Shugert (John and Linda Shugert's Sister-in-Law), Paula Blair, Brandy Cunningham (Alice Carter's Daughter), Bob Vandalia, Becky (friend of Mary Trudell), Kathy Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter) starts chemo in April, Abby Cotter, Linda Andrus, Hadley Gvillo (Julie Gvillo's granddaughter), Jenny Brueggeman (friend of Lisa) placed on Hospice, Laura Feltenstein-friend of Deb Goskie, Tom.

NURSING & RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

Integrity Healthcare, Wood River – Herbert Peel

The Cottages of Carlinville, Carlinville – Shirley Martin

Villa Rose, Bethalto – Beth Forrester

Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Shirley Burris and Mary Barnes



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Lisa Hemphill, Custodian

OFFERING of LETTERS

Put your faith into action with
Bread for the World's Offering of Letters!

As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure for a greater purpose. Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger.

Every year, Bread for the World organizes churches, community organizations, and people of faith from across the country to write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can **end hunger**.

By taking part in **Bread for the World's 2024 Offering of Letters**, you will help support domestic and international nutrition programs that offer a hand up to families and a brighter future for children.

Your letter matters. Combined with others from your church, campus, or organization—and joined with the voices of thousands of advocates across the country—your letter or email is an expression of faith and hope, urging U.S. decision makers to pursue a world without hunger. God uses these letters to change hearts and minds, and again and again, Bread for the World wins help and opportunity for our neighbors who face hunger.

Prayer of the Day

God of love,

*We gather this day to worship you;
to hear your word proclaimed,*

*to pray for our neighbors,
near and far,*

and to offer the gift of our voices

-and our words

*so that children around the world
have enough nourishing food*

that they will thrive.

Amen. 🍌



How to participate in Offering of Letters

Join Bread for the World in pursuing a world without hunger.

Please take a few minutes to write your members of Congress. Urge them to help families and children experiencing hunger and poverty—no matter where they live.

Sample letters can be found to print or send by email at ol.bread.org.

March 24, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
525 S. 8th Street
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Senator Durbin:

As part of LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church in Wood River, Illinois, I am writing to encourage Congress to renew our food and farm programs through passage of the Farm Bill. This Bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation and is critical to ending hunger at home and abroad.

As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the Farm Bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems, specifically:

- * Protect SNAP from funding cuts and further restrictions.
- * Increase funding for fresh produce within SNAP benefits through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
- * Reduce food waste by cosponsoring the *Food Date Labeling Act*, H.R. 3159/S.1484.
- * Reauthorize the Food for Peace global nutrition program at no less than its current level of \$2.5 billion annually and allow additional flexibility to provide the most effective form of assistance in each local context.

As a person of faith, advocating for those less fortunate is extremely important to me as, I hope, to you. This is why I urge you to support a Farm Bill that builds healthy and sustainable food systems.

Sincerely,