

Palm & Passion Sunday is a day of drama and paradox, of triumph and tragedy. We begin as crowds waving branches and shouting “Hosannah” (Hebrew for save us) and wanting to crown Jesus as King. But as the story of Christ’s passion unfolds, our shouts of praise turn into demands for his death.

## ✠ Liturgy of the Palms

Words of Welcome

Choral Call to Worship

*Hosanna in the Highest*

D. Music

Linda Allen, drum; Barb Elledge, triangle; Karen Wilson, tambourine

Opening Sentences

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer of the Day

Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1–11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.[a]” 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5 “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” 10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Time with the Children

Processional Song

*Hosanna in the Highest!*

5

Ho - san - na, ho - san na, ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na, ho - san na, ho san - na in the high - est!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. A small number '5' is placed to the left of the second staff.

Join us as we process into the sanctuary

✦ Liturgy of the Passion

Prayer for Illumination

First 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?

Anthem

*Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs*

*Carter*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 27:11–54

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. 15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus[a] Barabbas. 17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus[b] Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”[c] 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” 22 Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”[d] All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” 23 Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” 24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood;[e] see to it yourselves.” 25 Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” 26 So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters,[f] and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 30 They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. 32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;[g] 36 then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37 Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” 38 Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by derided[h] him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it

in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42 “He saved others; he cannot save himself.[i] He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” 44 The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. 45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land[j] until three in the afternoon. 46 And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” 48 At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”[k] 50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.[l] 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53 After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54 Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Silent Reflection

Bell Choir

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

*Hassler/Ingram*

### ✦ Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

*From the Confession of 1967*

**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. Amen**

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

*Give at [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://lovejoyupc.org/give)*

*Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our*

*neighbors primarily through our partners at Riverbend Family Ministries.  
Checks for offering are processed on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.*

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer 414

*Be Still and Know That I Am God  
Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.*

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.**

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### ✠ Sending

\* Hymn 215

*What Wondrous Love is This*  
*1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*  
*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*  
*2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*  
*3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*  
*4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;*

*and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*March*

Thygerson


### ✦ 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

Holy week and Easter are the high point of the Christian Year. This year we'll be joining our ministry partners at A Place of Grace for both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Palm Sunday is today. The Maundy Thursday Service (Potluck) is 4/2 at 6 PM. Good Friday is 4/3 at 7 PM under the front portico.

#### Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner

Sign up for the Maundy Thursday Potluck on April 2nd at 6pm. Meat and drinks will be provided. Please sign up for either a salad, vegetable or dessert.

**Church Directory Updates:** Please be sure that your information in the directory is up-to-date. Tabitha will be printing the directory next month. Please have all updates in by March 31st. Email Tabitha at [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org) or call the office to make changes.

#### Blood Drive

It's that time again. We will be hosting our next **Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, April 9**. If you are able, please donate to improve the quality of life for the donor, or potentially saving a life following an accident or surgery.

#### Church Women United Lenten Services & Lunches

Starting Ash Wednesday and continuing through Good Friday, community members are invited to attend 30 minute Lenten Services every Wednesday from 12–12:30pm, followed by a \$5 lunch, at area churches. A free will offering will benefit Oasis Women's Center and Crisis Food Center. For dates and locations: <https://bit.ly/3ZoX0S5>.

#### Food Pantry Needs: Toilet Tissue

**A Place of Grace Easter Vigil Retreat - April 4, 2026 7PM Von Dell Gallery & Studios, 102 E Ferguson,**

**Wood River, IL.** Join A Place of Grace for an Easter Vigil Retreat! Bring your lawn chairs -- we'll start outside and move indoors as the service progresses. It's a great opportunity for families!  
RSVP <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegillo.net/upcoming-events.html>

### **Adult Christian Education on Sunday Mornings at 9 AM**

- **Sunday Morning Live (Love Room & Zoom)** Is an informal, conversational class that seeks to connect scripture, theology, and faith to our lives and world. They relate current events to Scripture to create thought-provoking discussions via *The Wired Word*.
- **The Bible Class (Fellowship Hall & Zoom)**, led by Sandra Monroe, is exploring the lectionary readings using the curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*.

### **Wednesdays at LoveJoy United**

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

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, John Gremler & the Gremler Family, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Mark Carter, Tom and Jupiter, Shelly Devore (Brenda and Deb's niece), Brittany, Bill Lester, Lanny Harris, John Kennedy, Renee Lynn, Forrest, David Hemphill, Linda Duncan, Terrye Mock (Valerie Freeman's Sister-In-Law), Gary Chappell and Laurie Chappell (Edie Chappell's son and her daughter-in-law), Cathy Lister (Karen Auston's sister), Barb (Linda Smith's daughter), Paula Blair, Jeane Slayden, David Norris, Jo Carter, Julie Spurgeon, Becky & Rich Davis and Ray Bently (Friends of Linda Allen), Tom Cunningham (friend of Paula Blair), Connie Anderson (member of College Avenue), Steve Burton & Sean Boston (relatives of Lynn Boston), Gary Cooper (Kathi Cooper's brother), Chad Cox (friend of Mike Paddock) Joyce Melton (Faye Buerk's friend), Joe Phillips, Hughie (Sandy Franke's Son).

### **NURSING & RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS**

Liberty Village, Maryville – Shirley Martin  
Villa Rose, Bethalto – Beth Forrester  
Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Mary Barnes, Linda Duncan, Lee McCoy  
Liberty Village, Jerseyville – Shirley Burris  
Villas of Holly Brook – Jeane Slayden



**NEXT STEPS  
& SIGNUPS**

### **LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church**

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

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Tabitha Nail, Admin | [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org)

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper