

MARCH 29 2026 ORDER OF WORSHIP: PALM SUNDAY

I. PRELUDE: Robin Wohlfeil

Robin's Choice

II. WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER: Nikki Blanks

A. Welcome

B. Announcements

C. Opening Prayer

III. CALL TO WORSHIP & PALM PARADE: Sandy Friedl

One: Please rise in body or in spirit and join in the call to worship as it appears in your
bulletin: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast

All: But he was a threat to people with power.

One: Jesus stood against the Temple,

All: So he was a threat to the Sadducees.

One: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,

All: So he was a threat to the Pharisees.

One: Jesus took the titles of "Lord," "Son of God," and "King."

All: Those were the Caesar's titles: he was a threat to the government.

One: Jesus came without violence

All: Yet he disturbed the peace.

One: Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God

All: And the kingdoms of this world were frightened.

One: Lord, help us to love your Kingdom more than the kingdoms of this world.

All: For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Leader: Let us raise our palms and voices to Jesus our King! You're now invited to parade down the center aisle and make your way back to your seats by going down the side aisles. When you return to your seats, we'll sing hymn #196- All Glory Laud and Honor.

IV. OPENING HYMN: Robin

#196- All Glory, Laud and Honor

V. CONFESSION & ASSURANCE: Sandy

A. Call to Confession

When the parade is over, do we pick up our lives, brush them off, and live in the old way? Do we toss our palm branches aside, so we can grasp the seductions of the world? As we begin the journey through the holiest of weeks, let us speak the truth, as we confess. Please join me in the prayer of confession as it appears in your bulletin:

B. Prayer of Confession

God of Life...every year we purchase palm branches, waving them with one hand while holding hymnals in the other; we sing (and sometimes even shout), "Hosanna!"; and we imagine Jesus riding on the back of a donkey, as we try to get into the spirit of this strange parade. We long for something new...and you surprise us with something unexpected. You offer us a radical approach to life... but we aren't sure we trust your way

of doing things. Help us see your perfect vision for creation...and help us find the courage to strive for it...so we may be a lasting grain of hope in the world...even now...as we offer our silent confessions...

PAUSE 30-60 SECONDS FOR SILENT CONFESSION

C. Assurance of Pardon

One: Laying aside judgment, God gives us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us. This is the good news, my friends: In Christ, you are forgiven! God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.

VI. PASSING OF THE PEACE: Sandy

One: The peace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Now, let us share a sign of God's peace with one another

VII. SONG OF PRAISE: Robin

Jesus Remember Me

VIII. FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Sandy

A. Prayer for Illumination

Please be seated. Now, as we prepare to hear God's Word spoken to us, let us pray together: Holy God, in the midst of the loud "Hosannas!", as the waving palm leaves rustle in unison, quiet our preconceived notions... and hush our sure grasp of your truth... so that we

may, perhaps, discover something about your vision...your hope...your purpose for our life...
that changes the way we think, act, and do. Amen.

B. Scripture Reading

Our first scripture reading comes from the Prophet Isaiah chapter 50 and verses 4 through 9:

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,

to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,

wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;

I have not been rebellious,

I have not turned away.

I offered my back to those who beat me,

my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;

I did not hide my face

from mocking and spitting.

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,

I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,

and I know I will not be put to shame.

He who vindicates me is near:

Who then will bring charges against me?

Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser?

Let him confront me!

It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.

Who will condemn me?

They will all wear out like a garment;

the moths will eat them up.

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

IX. SPECIAL MUSIC: Robin

Robin's Choice

X. SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Nikki

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!" When he

entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

XI. MESSAGE: Nikki

XII. SONG OF RESPONSE: Robin

718- Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

XIII. GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

A. Call to Bring Our Gifts: Nikki

B. Song of Thanks: Robin

Doxology

C. Prayer of Thanks: Sandy

Please join me in prayer over our offerings: Blessed is the one who comes in your name, Lord! With these gifts, we would follow you even as you lead us into the deepest sacrifice. We glory in the drama of your salvation. We give you thanks, because you are good, because your faithful love lasts forever. Amen.

XIV. THIRD SCRIPTURE READING: Sandy

Please be seated. Our third scripture reading comes from the gospel of Matthew, chapter 26 and verses 20 through 35. Hear God's Word for you:

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so." ...

... When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

"Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

XV. SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: Nikki

A. Invitation to the Table

B. Great Thanksgiving & Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth, and create the fruit of the vine. You made us in your image, and freed us from the bonds of slavery. You claimed us as your people, and made covenant to be our God. You fed us manna in the wilderness, and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey. When we forgot you, and our faith was weak, you spoke through prophets, calling us to turn again to your ways. Therefore we praise you. AND WE THANK YOU ESPECIALLY FOR THE BLESSINGS WE NAME BEFORE YOU NOW...

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to deliver us from the bondage of death and slavery to sin. In humility he descends from your heights, to kneel in obedience to love's commands. He who is boundless takes on the bondage of our sin. He who is free takes our place in death's prison.

In the deserts of our wanderings, he sustains us, giving us his body as manna for our weariness. The cup of suffering which he drank has become for us the cup of salvation. In his death, he ransomed us from death's dominion; in his resurrection, he opened the way to eternal life.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Intercessions for the world included here... AND WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR
THOSE WE NAME BEFORE YOU NOW...

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit to live as love commands. Bound to Christ, set us free for joyful obedience and glad service. As Jesus gave his life for ours, help us to live our lives for others with humility and persistent courage. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when, with the redeemed of all the ages, we will feast with you at your table in glory. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, the one who taught us to pray, using these words:

Our Father...

C. Words of Institution

D. Communion of the People

E. Prayer After Communion

XVI. FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING: Nikki

Matthew 26:36-45

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

XVII. SENDING SONG: Robin

204- Stay With Me

XVIII. CHARGE & BLESSING: Nikki

XIX. POSTLUDE: Robin