



March 29, 2026 – Livestream
Palm Sunday

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Darren Cushman Wood

Leader: Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Let us go with Christ in faith and love, so that,
united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #280

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

bells arr. J. Warbinton

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

***Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One. [Refrain]***

***The company of angels are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. [Refrain]***

***The people of the Hebrews with psalms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present. [Refrain]***

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

***Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. [Refrain]***

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Little Gray Donkey

N. Sleeth
Denise Page Caraher, director
James Caraher, piano

Little gray donkey ho. Do you know just who it is you carry on your back? 'Tis no ordinary load, no mean or common pack, you are blessed of all beasts to carry into town, Christ the Lord of Galilee; He wears no earthly crown. Little gray donkey ho. Once you were a simple beast of poor and lowly state, Christ himself has chosen you and honored is your fate, Though your path with palms is spread, make haste upon the way, you were

destined here to ride on this triumphal day. Little gray donkey ho. Yonder is a grassy hill, it's known as Calvary, up against the cloudless sky, a barren cross you see. Little gray donkey, little gray mare, don't hide your head in shame, for you bear the Lamb of God and Jesus is His name.

OPENING PRAYER

**Forbid, O God, that we should forget
the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ
or lose hope in the coming victory of his resurrection.
But by your Spirit, lead us in the joyful procession
and keep us ever faithful in the way of Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. ² "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them." ⁴ This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

⁵ "Tell the people of Jerusalem,
'Look, your King is coming to you.
He is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey's colt.'"

⁶ The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!
Praise God in highest heaven!"

¹⁰ The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. "Who is this?" they asked. ¹¹ And the crowds replied, "It's Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

ANTHEM

Palm Sunday Hosanna

arr. Joel Raney

Kelley Warbinton, flute,

Alison and Mike Achacoso, Jeff Warbinton, bells

Carolers, Choristers, Denise Page Caraher, director

Cathedral Singers

Hosanna, loud Hosanna!
Hosanna, Hosanna! The rocks cry out, the children sing,
Hosanna, loud Hosanna!
Hosanna, Hosanna! Hosanna to the King of Kings!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are they that come in the name of the Lord!
Raise your psalms and banners high,
Jesus Christ is passing by, Hosanna!
Glory, Laud and Honor, sing praise to our Redeemer King, Hosanna!
Hosanna, loud Hosanna!....
Sing Hosanna, Sing! Hosanna!

¹² Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. ¹³ He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!"

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David." But the leaders were indignant. ¹⁶ They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.'" ¹⁷ Then he returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight.

HYMN #2130

The Summons

v.1-2, 5

***Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?***

***Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?***

***Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.***

THIRD LESSON

Jesus is Anointed

Matthew 26:3-13

³ At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, ⁴ plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. ⁵ "But not during the Passover celebration," they agreed, "or the people may riot."

⁶ Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. ⁷ While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head. ⁸ The disciples were indignant when they saw this. "What a waste!" they said. ⁹ "It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor."

¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, replied, "Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to me? ¹¹ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me. ¹² She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial. ¹³ I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed."

HYMN #2064

O Lord, You're Beautiful

***O Lord, you're beautiful, your face is all I seek;
and when your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.***

***O Lord, you're wonderful, your touch is all I need;
and when you hand is on this child, your healing I receive.***

***O Lord, you're beautiful, your face is all I seek;
and when your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Blessed Redeemer

A. Christensen/ S. Potts
Cathedral Singers

Up Calv'ry's mountain one dreadful morn, Walked Christ, my Savior, weary and worn;
Facing for sinners death on the cross, That He might save them from endless loss.

Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer! Seems now I see Him on Cal'vry's tree;
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading, blind and unheeding, dying for me.

"Father, forgive them," thus did He pray, even while His lifeblood flowed fast away.
Praying for sinners while in such woe, No one but Jesus ever loved so!

Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer! Seems now I see Him on Cal'vry's tree;
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading, blind and unheeding, dying for me.

Oh, how I love Him, Savior and Friend! How can my praises ever find end?

Thru years unnumbered on Heaven's shore, my tongue shall praise Him forevermore!

Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer! Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree;
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading, blind and unheeding, dying for me.

*LENTEN DOXOLOGY

Praise God throughout these forty days.

Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

And praise the Spirit who imparts

God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

FOURTH LESSON

Jesus is Arrested

Matthew 26:47-52

⁴⁷ And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss." ⁴⁹ So Judas came straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Rabbi!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for." Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear. ⁵² "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword."

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

FIFTH LESSON

Jesus Stands Trial

Matthew 26: 57-75

⁵⁷ Then the people who had arrested Jesus led him to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of religious law and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end.

⁵⁹ Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But even though they found many who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone's testimony. Finally, two men came forward ⁶¹ who declared, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus replied, "You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothing

to show his horror and said, “Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your verdict?” “Guilty!” they shouted. “He deserves to die!” ⁶⁷ Then they began to spit in Jesus’ face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸ jeering, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?”

⁶⁹ Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, “You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰ But Peter denied it in front of everyone. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. ⁷¹ Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁷² Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. “I don’t even know the man,” he said. ⁷³ A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, “You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.” ⁷⁴ Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.

HYMN #2112

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.

Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.

Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial; you have to stand it by yourself.

Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; you have to stand it by yourself.

SIXTH LESSON

Jesus Before Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26

¹ Very early in the morning the leading priests and the elders of the people met again to lay plans for putting Jesus to death. ² Then they bound him, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

¹¹ Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. “Are you the king of the Jews?” the governor asked him. Jesus replied, “You have said it.” ¹² But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. ¹³ “Don’t you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?” Pilate demanded. ¹⁴ But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor’s surprise.

¹⁵ Now it was the governor’s custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted. ¹⁶ This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas. ¹⁷ As the crowds gathered before Pilate’s house that morning, he asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.) ¹⁹ Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: “Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night.”

²⁰ Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. ²¹ So the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?” The crowd shouted back, “Barabbas!”

²² Pilate responded, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ²³ “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?” But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”

²⁴ Pilate saw that he wasn’t getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. The responsibility is yours!”

²⁵ And all the people yelled back, “We will take responsibility for his death—we and our children!” ²⁶ So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

The time has come, my body will be broken. The time has come, my blood will be spilled.
 The time has come when prophecies of old will be fulfilled.
 The time has come when friends will desert Me, when those who hate Me will seek to hurt Me.
 The time has come to do my Father's will, I must do my Father's will.
 Come, my friends, let Me wash your feet. Come, my friends take this bread and eat.
 Take and drink this cup of bittersweet, so bittersweet.
 The time is here, my friend will betray Me, the time has come, soldiers will come and slay Me.
 The time is here, let us go to the garden and pray. Let us pray, let us pray.
 Now my friends will you fall asleep while in torment I pray and weep?
 Yet in my sorrow, my Father's promise I will keep. His promise I will keep.
 The time has come, my body will be broken. The time has come; my blood will be spilled.
 The soldiers are drawing near, the time is here. The time is here.

SEVENTH READING

Jesus is led to Calvary

Matthew 27:27-31

²⁷ Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹ They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" ³⁰ And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. ³¹ When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

SERMON

We Were in the Crowd

Jill Moffett

HYMN#298

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

***When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
 my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.***

***Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
 all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.***

***See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?***

***Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
 love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.***

THE BLESSING

DEPART IN SILENCE

Holy Week and Easter:

Lenten Communion Service, April 1, 7:30am
Holy Thursday Communion Service, April 2, 7:30pm
Good Friday Community Prayer Service, April 3, 12:00noon
Good Friday Rutter's Requiem, April 3, 7:30pm
Easter Communion Service, April 5, 8:30am
Easter Celebration Service, April 5, 11:00am

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



Sermons are now available on Spotify.

Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor
Jill Moffett
Pastor of Community Formation
Brandon Wallace
Minister of Christian Education
John Hague
Allen McCormack
James Horton
Audio Visual
Kathleen Hacker
Interim Director of Music
Heather Hinton
Organist

Easter Season Events:

Forum on Land Development, April 7, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Bible Studies, 6:30pm:

Bible Basics, April 15-May 6

Confederacy of the Covenant: A Study of Joshua, Judges and Ruth,
April 8-May 13

UWF Sunday Supper, April 12, noon, Fellowship Hall

Earth Day Sunday, April 26

Sound Bath Meditation, April 26, 6pm, Chapel

