

Palm Sunday
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
March 29, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



The Lord Needs Them

2980 130th Street East, P.O. Box 276, Dundas, Minnesota 55019
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www.littleprairieumc.org

Our Vision

Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well and serves well;
transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Congregation Gathers in Fellowship Hall -*You are welcome to pick a palm*

Gathering Music

Marcia Yernberg

Welcome/Announcements *(in Fellowship Hall)*

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Call to Worship *(is in Fellowship Hall, we will all process in together after the Call to Worship)*

Today, we join Jesus in the final ascent to Jerusalem, knowing the depths we will descend on our journey through Holy Week.

Open the gates of righteousness, that we may come worship God!

We join the disciples in declaring that Jesus, riding on a donkey, is our Ruler, the One who will bring peace and salvation for all.

Open the gates of peace, that we may come worship God!

We join with the bystanders who questioned and wondered who this Jesus really is, who feared the consequences of angering the powers that be.

Open the gates of truth, that we may come worship God!

The journey through Holy Week brings us face-to-face with the stark reality of sin and God’s faithfulness to save.

Open the gates of salvation, that we may come worship God whose steadfast love never fails!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2024.

Entrance into Jerusalem (*Congregation enters the Sanctuary*)

Processional Hymn of Praise *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (UMH #278)*

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

Hosanna in the Highest!

Opening Prayer

Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world.

You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage.

As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey, and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing!

We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, “Hosanna in the highest!” Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.

Written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott on the Worship Ways website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/palm-passion-sunday-b-march-24/>.

Prayer of Confession

Let us confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of stress.

O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too.

But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us, and we turn against you, too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you.

Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you again. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Written by Ruth C. Duck in Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 61.

**Sharing the Peace
Children’s Moment**

THE WORD

Matthew 21:1-11

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

The Lord Needs Them

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

All Glory, Laud and Honor (UMH #280)

All

Joys/Concerns/Prayers of the People

We confess that sometimes we are not so different from those who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday yet later shouted 'Crucify him!' or remained silent in the face of injustice.

Sometimes, we have betrayed you too, Lord Jesus by our sins both secret and known.

Yet you died for people like us, and you rose on the third day that we might be redeemed.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, do not hold our sins against us.

Jesus Christ, our King of glory, sometimes, we have not been outspoken for you. We have not called for your death, but neither have we shouted of your greatness, nor expressed delight in the salvation you have won for us.

Help us to see your glory, draw us closer to you that we may become more faithful and more joyful servants of the King. Amen.

Offering

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH #95)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Humble Savior, you ride into our lives not with force, but with invitation—calling us to follow, to risk, and to trust.

As we bring these gifts, we confess we don't always understand where the road leads.

But like those who laid down cloaks and waved palms, we offer what we have with hope in our hearts and praise on our lips. Use these offerings to proclaim your kingdom

—where love confronts fear, and peace dares to speak in the shadow of power. Save us, Lord. Use us.

Amen.([Matthew 21:1-11](#))

And the prayer which unites us...

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.

Hymn

Lamb of God (TFWS #2113)

All

Sending

Beloved, as we move into the week ahead, may God bless you with the insight to know the way of Jesus, the courage to hold firm to the way of Jesus when the crowds try to lead you astray, and the strength to follow the way of Jesus, the way of God's steadfast love that never fails. May a stranger will see in you a friend and neighbor. God sends you. The Spirit fills you. Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. God Bless!

Go in hope, peace, joy and love. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude

Marcia Yernberg

INFORMATION

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, Certified Lay Minister and Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and Kory Larson, Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed, Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson, Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen, Finance Committee Co-Chairs: Kevin Larson and Mel Henrichs, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions, Nurture and Outreach: Barb Liebenstein, Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Tom Hollenhorst



Website



Online Giving

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am

Tuesdays, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, at L&M

Wednesdays, 9-10:30 am: Pastor Penny at James Gang coffee shop

Saturdays 9-11 am Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

Thurs. April 2, 7:00 pm: Holy, Maundy Service

Fri. April 3, 7:00 pm: Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday

8:00 am breakfast

9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 am Worship