

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*of Wausau, Wisconsin*

**Palm Sunday**

**March 29, 2026**

## GATHERING

*\* Please rise in body or spirit where indicated.  
Text in **bold type** is to be spoken or sung in unison*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

arr. Michael Burkhardt

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

**Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!**

Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

**Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!**

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

### \*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people and the ways of our world in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love. Show us again the image of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience, so that self-emptying may be our pathway, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

# 197

1 Hosanna, loud hosanna,  
the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple  
the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them,  
close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.

2 From Olivet they followed  
'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving,  
and chanting clear and loud;  
the Lord of earth and heaven  
rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children  
should on his bidding wait.

3 "Hosanna in the highest!"  
That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer;

the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise him  
with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence  
eternally rejoice.

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us face this day of palms and this week leading to Jesus' passion with honesty, confessing our sin before God.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, sure of your faithfulness even in your dying, comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age, we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude. We have looked to you for paltry favors, when you have given everything. We have withheld from your people, our neighbors, and from your creation, our Earth, the care and tending they deserve. We have rejected the cornerstone you sent to build a people of righteousness even here, today. Forgive our failings. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision, so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Please continue in silent reflection and your personal prayer of confession.*

#### SUNG RESPONSE

*O Save Me, God, and Hear My Cry*

# 812, v. 1

**O save me, God, and hear my cry; my prayer to you ascends.  
And vindicate me by your might; on you my hope depends.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Our God has come to us, humble, in the form of a slave, to free us from the weight of sin and death. Jesus' obedient suffering has released us. Friends, our sins are forgiven, in the name of the one who is exalted beyond what we can comprehend: Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### SUNG RESPONSE

*The Palms*

Faure/DeCesare

*The congregation is invited to join in the singing on the chorus*

**Join all and sing, his name, declare. Let every voice resound with acclamation,  
Hosanna! Praise be the Lord! Glory to him who comes bringing salvation!**

### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29, OT p. 565

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

- <sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- <sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- <sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
- <sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
- <sup>27</sup> The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.
- <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.
- <sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

ANTHEM

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

arr. Lloyd Larson

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:1-11, NT p. 23

**21** When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "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."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!"

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

## MESSAGE

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### \*HYMN

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

# 196

*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*)

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.09

**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.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let our hosannas to the one who brings liberation take form in our gifts and offerings.

## OFFERTORY

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!*

arr. Sandra Eithun

*You are invited to use this time of offering to reflect on how you show your gratitude to God, whether through acts of service or through sharing of resources. Offering plates are available at the doors to leave a gift before or immediately after the service. You may also give online at [www.firstpreswausau.org](http://www.firstpreswausau.org) or through your Realm login.*

## \*SUNG RESPONSE

*Doxology*

# 606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of all good gifts, we thank you for showing us how to care for each other.

May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are homeless. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace.

Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## SENDING OUT

## \*HYMN

*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

# 198

1 Ride on! ride on in majesty!  
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;  
thy humble beast pursues its road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on! ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3 Ride on! ride on in majesty!  
The hosts of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on! ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain;  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

*Psalm XIX*

Benedetto Marcello

*Following worship, all are invited to the Parlor for a time of refreshment and fellowship.*

***Thank you to those who helped us with worship today:***

Rev. Rachel A. Wann, senior pastor

Rev. Joy Nelson-Jeffers, pastoral associate

Mary Anderson, liturgist

Susan Schaefer, organist/director

The Chancel and Handbell Choirs

Katherine Wright, minute for mission

Rick Builer, sound and video

The Schranz Team, hospitality

Steve Martinson, doorkeeper

Mary Anderson, bulletin printing and assembly