

Worship for Palm / Passion Sunday
First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
March 29, 2026



*Tell Me Something GOOD:
The Good News is ...
inspiring us to act.*

Nicolette Faison
Palm Sunday Was a Protest

Opening Sentences

- Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

With crowds from ancient times we cry:

Hosanna! Save us!

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

God's steadfast love endures forever.

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

We bless you in the house of the Lord!

Opening Hymn All Glory, Laud, and Honor

GG #196

During the hymn, you may come down the center aisle and lay your palm branch on the chancel steps or wave your palm branch in the pew.

*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 people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers 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*

Prayer of the Day

Christ of both celebration and sorrow,
be with us in our time of worship today
and in the week ahead.

Help us to embrace the fullness of your story,
both the triumph and the tragedy.

Strengthen us to proclaim blessing and hope,
no matter the circumstances,
that we may be children of your promise,
both now and forever.

Amen.

Call to Confession

The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets, and cries of “Hosanna!” It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world. The first Palm Sunday was a day of peaceful, hopeful action.

So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join together in an act of faith, an act of honesty, an act of transformation. Let us draw close to God and share the truth of our lives as we confess together our need for grace.

Prayer of Confession

**Jesus of Nazareth,
we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.
You marched through the streets and walked on water.
You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables.
Your good news was not confined to conversation.
It was not confined to the Temple.
Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.
Holy God, we long for a faith like that.
Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith
to something we think about, rather than something we act upon.
Inspire us to love as you loved.
Inspire us to act.
Inspire us to follow you with faithfulness and hope.**

Words of Forgiveness

Church family,
whether or not you wave your palm branch,
whether or not you live out your faith,
whether or not you allow the good news of grace
to inspire your actions,
God will never stop loving you.
Jesus will never stop marching for you.
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.
**We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.
What good, good news. Amen!**

Act of Praise

All Glory, Laud, and Honor, *refrain*

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer King,

to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

Invitation to the Offering

Let our hosannas to the One who brings liberation
take form in our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

Act of Dedication Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, v. 3

GG #197

“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.

Offertory Prayer

God of all good gifts and good news,
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 have no home.
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,
and who has taught us to pray together, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God,
whose word silences the shouts of the mighty:
Quiet within us every voice but your own
that we might hear your Word to us this day. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Mark 11:1-11 **Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna!

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

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Responsive Prayer on Christ's Passion

Our Redeemer suffered death,

was buried and rose again for our sake.

With humble love, let us approach the One who is aware of our needs.

Christ our teacher,

for us you were obedient, even to death:

Teach us to obey God's will in all things.

Christ our life,

by dying on the cross

you destroyed the power of evil and death:

Enable us to die with you, and to rise with you in glory.

Christ our strength,
you were despised,
and humiliated as a condemned criminal:
Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.

Christ our salvation,
you gave your life out of love for us:
Help us to love one another.

Christ our Savior,
on the cross you embraced all time
with your outstretched arms:
Gather all the scattered children of God into your realm.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Eternal God,
as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ,
so give us the grace of repentance
that we may pass through the grave with him
and be born again to eternal life.

For he is the One
who was crucified, dead, and buried,
and rose again for us,
Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

The Sanctuary is Stripped

In bulletin:

Today we enter Holy Week. As we turn away from palm branches and toward the cross, we relinquish “all the vain things that charm us most”. The world will not save us. Our possessions will not save us. Our practices will not save us.

Our Lord will save us. Has saved us. Does save us.

The path to Sunday joy runs through Friday sorrow. The door to our eternal life is opened by the One who dies on the cross for us and for our salvation.

And so, we look nowhere except to our Lord.

We strip the sanctuary bare in recognition of the sorrow of Good Friday. We strip the sanctuary bare so that we might center our attention and our love on Jesus Christ our Lord. We strip the sanctuary bare so that nothing can distract us from the presence and the power of divine love.

“We began worship today with loud Hosannas, echoing the crowd which shouted out to Jesus: “Hosanna! Save us!”

But the salvation we seek comes at great cost to the One who saves us. The week which began with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem ends on the cross where he endures death that we might have life, eternal and abundant. We symbolize the terror and grief of Holy Week by stripping the sanctuary of adornment.

Please remain seated for the hymn.”

Hymn When I Survey the Wondrous Cross GG #223

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 a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Choral Music Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Postlude

The People Depart

Some of the liturgy in this service has been adapted from liturgy by Sarah A. Speed | A
Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell
Beverly Avila

Caly Fernandez
Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

The FPC Session
FPC Choir

FPC McAllen Contact Information: 104 S. 12th Street; McAllen, TX 78501

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1029; McAllen, TX 78505

Church phone: 956-682-2836

website: <https://www.mcallenfpc.org/>

Pastor: fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com Church Administrator: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net