

Palm Sunday

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Not the best dinnertime conversation to initiate but leave it to Jesus to bring it up just as everyone is enjoying a meal. We are there as well, at the table gathered for what will become known as The Last Supper. It is a night to wash feet, break bread and drink from the common cup. It is also the time for Judas, one of Jesus' 12 followers, to excuse himself from the festivities to sell Jesus out to the chief priests for 30 pieces of silver.

We already know what comes next as the Holy Week drama unfolds. Jesus is arrested, tried and crucified. We also know that Judas, so overcome with shame and guilt, will kill himself.

What we don't know is that there is more to Judas' story. Often seen as the scapegoat in the story of salvation, Judas' real failing goes deeper than greed.

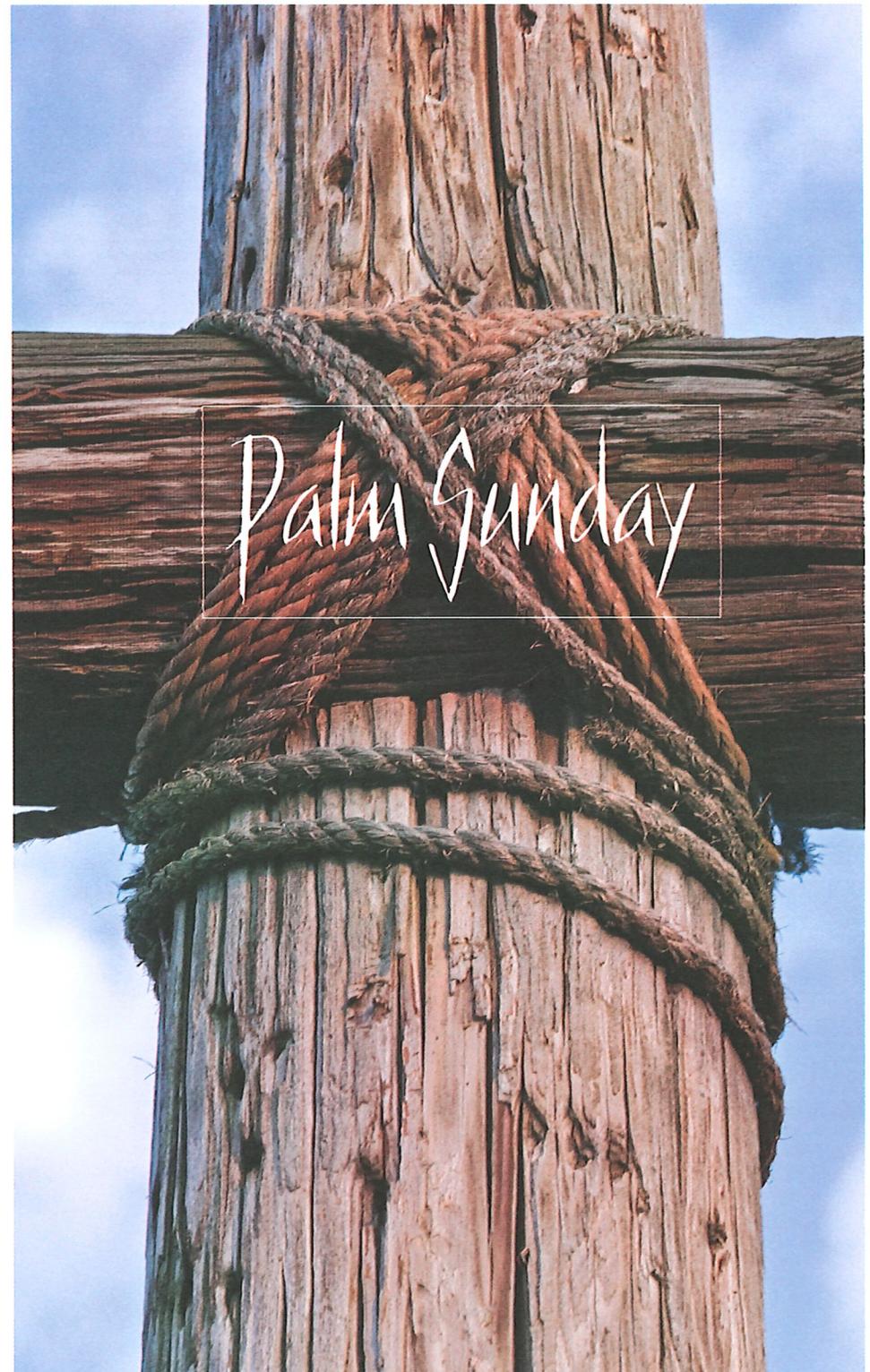
The ultimate betrayal was that Judas failed to believe in the depths of God's love for him — a love that forgives the deepest of betrayals. Rather than remember the grace Jesus spoke of, Judas allowed his guilt to consume him.

When I think of Judas' betrayal as one not trusting God's redemptive love, I begin hearing Jesus' dinner conversation differently. When he declares one of us will betray him, I squirm in my seat as others protest "Surely not I, Rabbi?" I know that many times I have run from God all because I couldn't trust the extent of love waiting to absolve me of my guilt and give me a new lease on life.

My friends, don't be like Judas — or me. Run to the loving arms of God, unafraid of the confessions that will come from your lips. Run, confess, repent — let it all out. Not only can God handle it, God will forgive.

Forgiving God, as much as we would like to say that we would not betray You, we know better. We are human and we are flawed. In this life, we will stray from Your ways. When we do, give us the courage to return to You, seeking the forgiveness You will not withhold from us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

March 29, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Palm Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Carrie Mandigo

Music: Boram Chern | Video: James Mandigo

*Rise in body or in spirit.

*PROCESSIONAL *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* NCH 213

Kids & interested adults are welcome to join the processional starting in the narthex.

All: Hosanna! Save us.

GATHERING WORDS & PASSING OF THE PEACE

*NO MATTER Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what

No matter where you are on the journey of life;

You're welcome, welcome in this place.

Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹ & OPENING PRAYER

One: The crowds cheer and shout:

All: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: They wave palm branches and spread their garments out on the road as Jesus enters Jerusalem.

All: The whole city joins in to give Jesus a hero's welcome!

One: But the cheers are shallow – the celebration is short-lived.

In the background the chief priests, the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Herodians are green with envy and red with rage.

All: Today is Palm Sunday: a day of paradox.

One: This day Christ rides to the capital on a lowly colt. This the day the Romans march into Jerusalem on war horses.

All: This day we take our places in the crowd.

*HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* NCH 216

SCRIPTURE Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship or attend Sunday School after the Offering.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, our heavenly host;

Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you have ridden into our lives again and again. Every year we celebrate Your entry into our lives. On this day we celebrate and we remember that although there is triumph, there is also fear. We call on you to be present in this place. To whisper to us and stir our hearts so that we may overcome whatever fears cause us to lose hope once the palm branches stop waving and the crowds stop shouting Hosanna. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:1-11

CHOIR ANTHEM Sing Hosanna

SCRIPTURE Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26

SERMON Rev. Gretchen Deeg

HYMN *You Are Holy* Sing! 51 v. 1-3

BLESSING OF THE PALM BRANCHES²

One: Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.

All: May they remind us of the simple joys of living.

One: Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.

All: May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.

One: Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.
All: **May they remind us the road ahead is not always easy.**
One: For the parade, the protest, and the processional
All: **We give you thanks.**

*HYMN *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* NCH 215

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE](#), License #732302-A.

¹Adapted. Nancy Johnson. *Wonderings through life and other such nonsense.*

²Adapted. John Birch. *Faith and Worship.*



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Palm Sunday Path Processional Worship - TODAY!

Our first ever community Palm Processional is drawing participants from across North Dakota and parts of South Dakota. We need everyone to make this an incredible event!

3 PM – Procession starts from Trinity Lutheran (join anywhere along the route traveling N on 6th Street to the ND State Capitol). Bring palms from worship! Please do not bring signs or pets.

4 PM – Worship starts on the ND State Capitol steps with guest preachers Sr. Kathleen Atkinson (Ministry on the Margins founder) and Jasmine Tosseth-Smith (Global Neighbors executive director)

Lay Leadership Celebration

We're celebrating Lay Leadership at Bismarck UCC from April 13 – May 17 while Pastor Gretchen is on 1/3 of her sabbatical. This the second year of our Lay Leadership Celebration and last year was an incredibly enriching, faith-filled experience with lay-led worship.

Rummage Sale - April 18 from 8am to 4pm

We need volunteers to help set-up during the week and work the sale. There is a sign-up sheet below the bulletin board. You may begin bringing items to the church after worship on Sunday, April 12. No adult clothing, shoes, exercise equipment, or electronics.

HOLY WEEK: March 29 - April 5

Sunday: PALM SUNDAY
11 AM Pancake Breakfast & Fellowship
3 PM Palm Sunday Path Processional Worship

Tuesday: 1 PM Quilting/Knitting

Wednesday: 2 PM Hay Creek Lodge Ministries
6 PM Youth Group & Confirmation
7 PM Choir Practice

Thursday: MAUNDY THURSDAY
5:30 PM Soup Supper
6:30 PM Tenebrae Worship w/ choir & orchestra

Friday: 8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))

Saturday: HOLY SATURDAY
7 PM Community Easter Vigil (Bismarck UCC)

Sunday: EASTER SUNDAY
6:30 AM Outdoor Sunrise Service
(Hay Creek Lodge, 1144 College Dr)
10 AM Easter Worship (in-person & [online](#))
11 AM Fellowship
11:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsor a Sunday

April 12 & 19 are available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Roberto Alvarez, Sharon Vanorny (Hannah's mother), Lacy Peters (Dawn Archer's cousin), Family of Kathy Rudolph, Jody Miller, Kayla Bruning, Bella Bruning, Gellsia (Chelsea Gagner's daughter), Lynn Bryntesen, Sandy Kirby (Autum's Sister), Matthew Nitschke, Nolan Myles McLemore (Amanda Wilson's grandson), Sheyla Munoz (Autum's sister-in-law), Tasha Hausauer (John Sauter's cousin), Hayes & Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's sons), Diana, Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Pam Crawford, Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Colby (Janice & Gary Sather's son), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

213

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15

1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

216

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

Matt. 21:8-9

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - ereign - ty hold sway.

The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,

our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

You Are Holy

♩ = 112

F

B^b



You___ are ho - ly, you show us the way,___ you_
 You___ are *free - dom*, you show us the way,___ you_
 You___ are *just - ice*, you show us the way,___ you_

C⁷

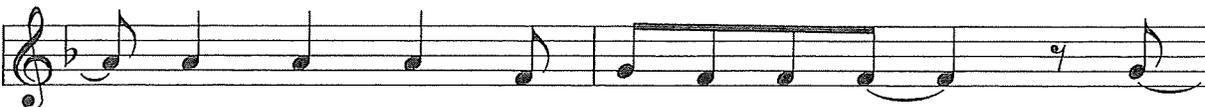
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___ are ho - ly, you show us the way.___ You_
 ___ are *free - dom*, you show us the way.___ You_
 ___ are *just - ice*, you show us the way.___ You_

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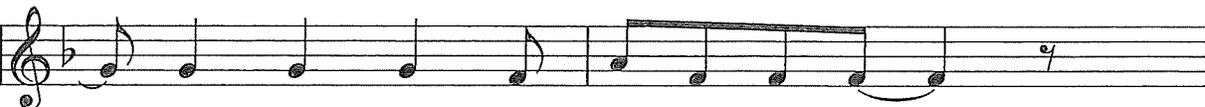
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___ are ho - ly, you show us the way,___ you_
 ___ are *free - dom*, you show us the way,___ you_
 ___ are *just - ice*, you show us the way,___ you_

C⁷

F



___ are ho - ly, you show us the way.___
 ___ are *free - dom*, you show us the way.___
 ___ are *just - ice*, you show us the way.___

F

B^b



You show us, you show us, you show us the way,___ you

C⁷

F



show us, you show us, you show us the way.---

Optional verses in italic.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

*Luke 19:36-38; Zech. 9:9**Henry H. Milman, 1827; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1993*

1 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 2 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 3 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 4 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!

O Christ, with brave hu - mil - i - ty,
 As crowds of peo - ple come to see
 Ride on in hum - ble dig - ni - ty;
 For you have set your peo - ple free

On low - ly colt, your road pur - sue,
 And shout ho - san - nas, lift - ing high
 Be - hold the ones you came to save
 And we, re - mem - bering all your pain,

as palms and cloaks are spread for you.
 their praise for one a - bout to die.
 from sense - less life and end - less grave.
 now meet a - gain to hail your reign.