



# Grace First

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
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# THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

April 5, 2020

## PALM SUNDAY

### Call to Worship

On Palm Sunday so many years ago, the people  
saw Jesus and asked,

**Who is this?**

In worship, we respond. In worship, we declare:

**Jesus is a miracle worker and healer.**

Jesus is a teacher and preacher.

**Jesus is our light in the darkness.**

Jesus is our source of love.

**Jesus is our path in the wilderness.**

So may we lay down our hearts like they laid down  
their coats.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

### Scripture Reading: Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

### Hymn 196

*Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

(With 5 verses)

### Scripture Reading: Tables Turned

Matthew 21:12-13

### Dramatic Reading: Monday

The Woman in the Temple

### Call to Confession

## **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, You invite us to plant a garden of love and harmony, but we grow weeds of prejudice and hatred. You invite us to sow joy and gratitude, but we scatter seeds of greed and envy. You call us to tend the soil of fear and denial, but instead we close our eyes and let the earth suffer. Forgive us. You invited us to plant a garden, and we lost ourselves in the wilderness. Clear our hearts. Breathe life into these weary bones and grant us a fresh start. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading: Authority Questioned**

Matthew 21:23

## **Dramatic Reading: Tuesday**

A Pharisee

## **Scripture Reading: Anointed**

Matthew 26:6-13

## **Dramatic Reading: Wednesday**

The Woman with the Alabaster Jar

## **Invitation to the Offering**

What would you give if you could? What treasure hidden away, what love has been left untapped? Church, may we too be grace embodied as we give of our tithes and offerings.

*(You are invited to send your tithe to the church  
via mail or bank transaction)*

**Offertory****The Palms****J. Faure**

Where e're we go, the palms along our way,  
Now on this festival their fronds are showing,  
Lo, Jesus comes to dry our tears today,  
See how to welcome Him the throngs advance.

*Sing, one and all, the chorus raise,  
Voicing your happy cry of acclamation:  
Hosanna! Our Lord we praise!  
Bless Him who bringeth us salvation!*

He spake the word, and nations, slaves no more,  
Joy to regain freedom so long denied them;  
Man enters on the rights he held of yore,  
To them the light that failed he doth restore,

Sing and be glad, O blest Jerusalem,  
Sing now your sons' glorious liberation;  
Out of His lore the Christ of Bethlehem  
Grants you the hope and faith that never fail.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, When we hide away our treasure in  
cupboards for ourselves—forgive us. Inspire us to be as  
gracious as the woman with the alabaster jar. Gratefully we  
pray, Amen.

**Scripture Reading: Betrayal**

Matthew 26:14-16

**Dramatic Reading: Wednesday**

Judas

**Scripture Reading: The Garden**

Matthew 26:36-47

**Dramatic Reading: Thursday Night**

A disciple in the garden of Gethsemane

“What Wonderous Love Is This”

**Closing Litany**

**Who is he?**

On Sunday he was everything—the center of the parade, the center of our attention. His arrival was holy and unexpected and beautiful.

**Who is he?**

On Monday he turned the world upside down. He flipped the tables while he flipped the script. I’ve never seen anything like it before.

**Who is he?**

On Tuesday he was a teacher. But he wasn’t like the other teachers. He sat and they sat. He spoke and they listened. What they don’t know is he hasn’t earned his place.

**Who is he?**

On Wednesday he pulled me from the wilderness. He gave me the gift of new life, so I gave him all that I had. People may have stared and talked, but newness does that to people.

**Who is he?**

On Wednesday he was nothing more than a man worth thirty pieces of silver.

**Who is he?**

On Thursday he was the body broken for us, the blood shed for us.

**Who is he?**

On Thursday he was betrayed. He was arrested. He was treated like a convict. On Thursday he was alone, and I was asleep.

**Who is he?**

It’s the question everyone is asking.

**Benediction**

## **Announcements:**

Holy Week worship information will be announced tomorrow in the Steepleton Mail video which you should receive via email or can find on our social media pages.

**April Star Word Prompt:** Where do you find the hope and good news of the resurrection in/through your star word?

**Thank you to our readers:**  
Lacey VanPay, Joe Barnhart,  
Alycia Nelson, Jeff Kahlden,  
& Rusty Crownover

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:  
Sarah Are, Sanctified Art LLC, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)  
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