



# *Palm/Passion Sunday*

**A Service for the Worship of God**  
at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio

April 5 at 10:00 a.m.

## *Preparing for the Service*

*If possible, place a candle in front of you with matches or an electric lighter. Since this is a Communion Sunday, please set out your own bread and a cup of juice for each person.*

*If you would like, you can also bring in a part of a leafy or flowering branch of a tree or bush and wave it when we sing the first hymn.*

*We hope you will sing along to the hymns.*

## *Gathering Around God's Word*

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Rev. Laura Nile*

## Call to Worship

*Rev. Laura Nile*

*One: Despite being in separate places, we gather together to worship,*

**All: raising our branches in joy,**

*One: joining all who wish to see Jesus,*

**All: eager for a healing touch, a blessing received.**

*One: We gather,*

**All: raising our branches in hope,**

*One: joining all who wish to hear Jesus,*

**All: longing for a message of welcome and acceptance on our journey.**

*One: We gather together,*

**All: laying down our branches in fear,**

*One: wondering if we are able to walk with Jesus*

**All: through the week ahead—**

**through anguish, accusations, and despair.**

*One: We gather together,*

**All: waving branches of prayer,**

**walking toward the Cross and the empty tomb.**

**Hymn # 196**

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

*Ruth Whatley*

*The Hymn is printed below.*

*Please sing along with Ruth.*

*You can wave your branches, too!*

# All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.  
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

## Opening Acclamation

*One:* Hosanna in the highest!

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

## Prayer of Confession

With joy in our hearts, we welcome your beloved One, O God, only to reject him when he picks up a cross instead of a crown. Like cloaks laid on the ground before Jesus, we pick up our faith, dust it off and put it back in the closet until we need it. We can be as stubborn and rebellious as the city which cheers your name. Compassionate God, help us to lay our doubts, our fears, our worries and our weariness at your feet. Help us to trust and believe that you will forgive what is sinful, make whole our brokenness, and welcome us home.

*(Silence for personal reflection and confession.)* Amen.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: Hosanna!*

**All: Blessed is the One who comes in God's name,  
not to condemn us, but to love us!**

*One: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and called to a new way of living.*

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## Response

*Hymn #71, refrain only*

**Surely it is God who saves me;  
I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.**

## Hearing God's Word

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

*Ruth Whatley*

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

### Anthem

"Ride On, King Jesus"

*Ruth Whatley*

### Children's Time

*Rev. Laura Nile*

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:15-31

*Rev. Laura Nile*

Now at the festival, the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

**Sermon**

**“Where is God in This?”**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Responding to God’s Word**

**Hymn # 214**

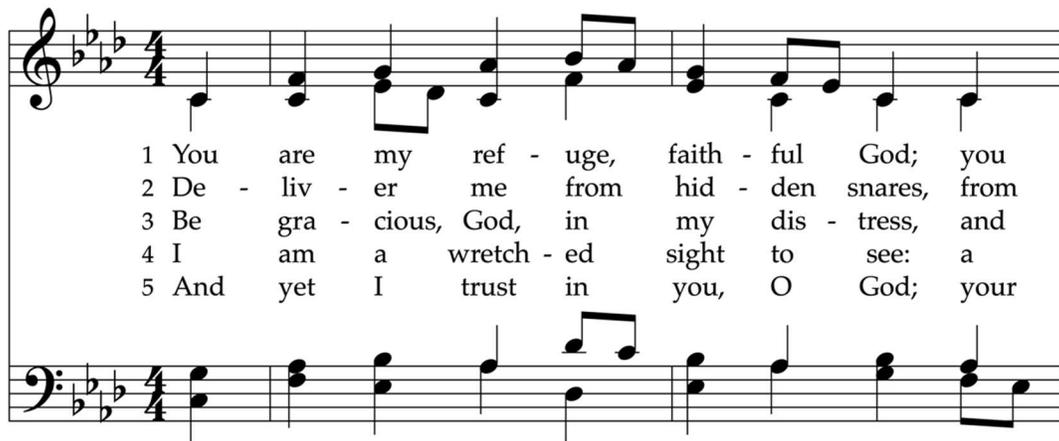
“You Are My Refuge, Faithful God”

*verses 1 and 5*

*The Hymn is printed below. Please sing verses 1 and 5.*

# 214 You Are My Refuge, Faithful God

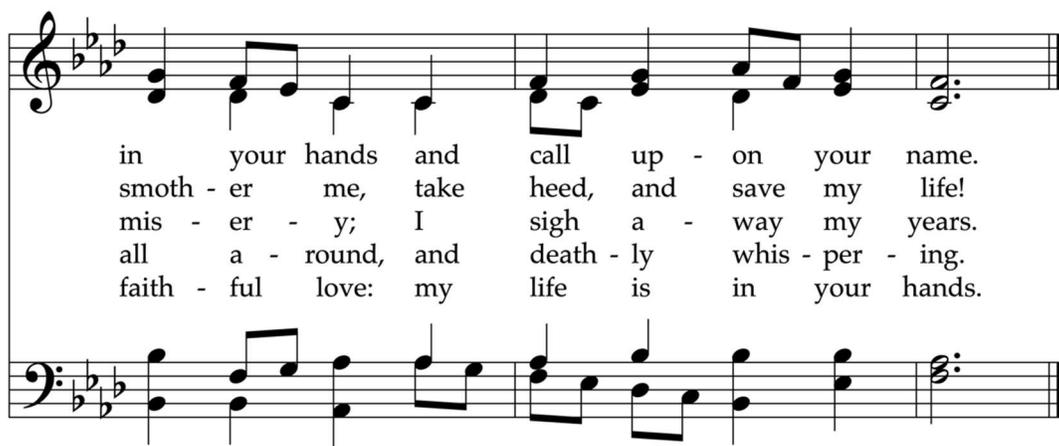
(Psalm 31)



1 You are my ref - uge, faith - ful God; you  
2 De - liv - er me from hid - den snares, from  
3 Be gra - cious, God, in my dis - tress, and  
4 I am a wretch - ed sight to see: a  
5 And yet I trust in you, O God; your



shel - ter me from shame. I put my spir - it  
sor - row, pain, and strife. When trou - bles seem to  
dry my bit - ter tears. My life is spent in  
bro - ken, emp - ty thing, with on - ly ter - ror  
cov - e - nant still stands. Re - deem me, in your



in your hands and call up - on your name.  
smoth - er me, take heed, and save my life!  
mis - er - y; I sigh a - way my years.  
all a - round, and death - ly whis - per - ing.  
faith - ful love: my life is in your hands.

## Presentation of Offerings

Presentation Hymn # 223

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*verse 4*

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.

## THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to The Table

\*Hymn # 500

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

## Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread 500

1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;  
2 Here share with us, in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood,

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread your ta - ble in our heart.  
that liv - ing bread, that heav-en-ly wine be our im - mor - tal food.

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*One: The Lord be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

*One: Lift up your hearts.*

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

*One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

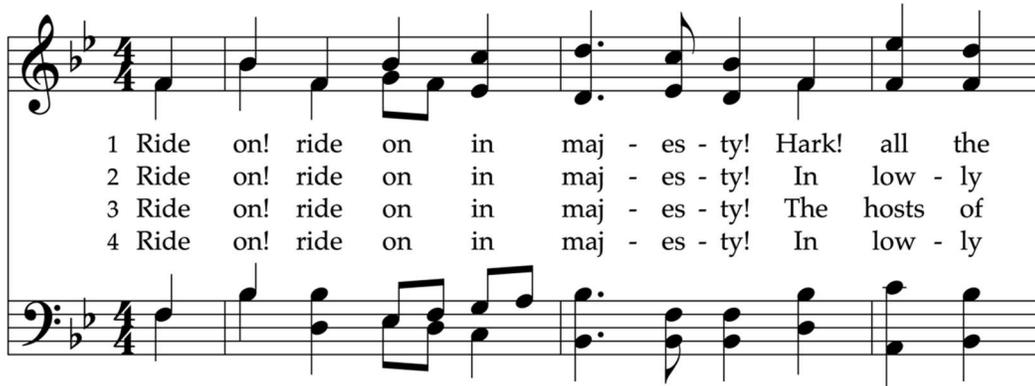
### Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup

*If we were in the same room, we would be serving each other, but today, each of you will serve yourselves or a family member. After Pastor Nancy says, “The Body of Christ, given for you,” serve a family member (or, if alone, serve yourself), saying the same words. When Pastor Laura says, “The Cup of the New Covenant, given for you,” do the same. The bread broken and the cup poured by the pastors symbolizes our unity as the Body of Christ in this sacrament.*

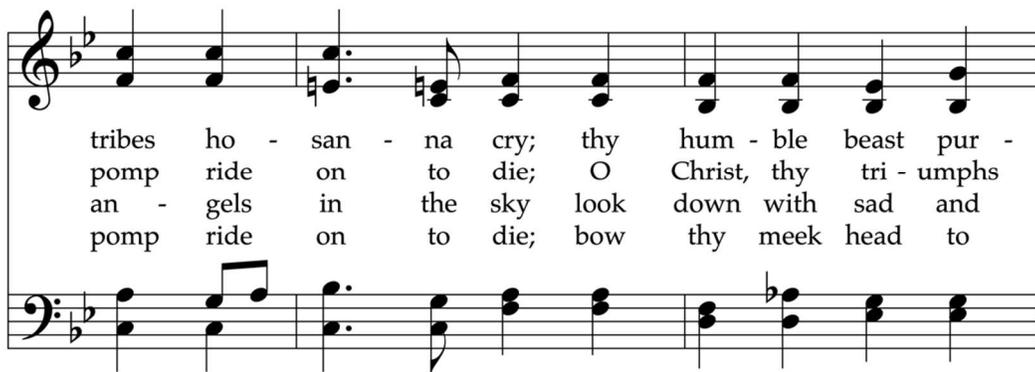
### Prayer After Communion and the Lord’s Prayer

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.

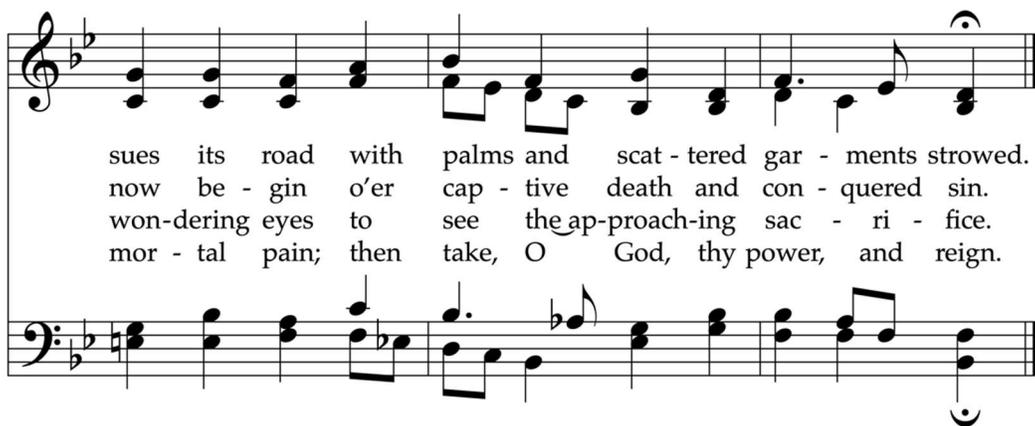
## Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! 198



1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the  
 2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
 3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of  
 4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -  
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs  
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and  
 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to



sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Benediction

Postlude