

God is love and love lives here!



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Sunday, March 24, 2024, Sixth Sunday in Lent

What Is Palm Sunday and What Does it Have to Do with Easter?



- **Emma Danzey**, Contributing Writer

One day each year in the spring, churches gather around the world and are given palm branches to wave. This beautiful service called [Palm Sunday](#) is one week prior to Easter. It is an incredible tradition, but why do Christians celebrate Palm Sunday? What is the purpose of raising branches? To an onlooker, this might appear to be a strange worship service. However, as we dive deeper into the meaning of this unique day, we can all gain a greater understanding of the value of celebrating and commemorating the victorious entrance of our King Jesus.

What Is Palm Sunday and Why Do We Celebrate It?

Palm Sunday was the first day of Holy Week leading up to the Jewish holiday of Passover. Jesus rode on a donkey through the town of Jerusalem on His way to conquer death and bring us life through His sacrifice on the cross. According to [Christianity.com](#), "Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days to the cross. In many churches, Palm Sunday is observed by the blessing and sharing of palm branches symbolizing the palm branches the crowd placed in front of Christ as he entered into Jerusalem."

Palm Sunday is celebrated by the Christian community because it represents the victory that we have in Christ. A palm branch is a symbol of triumph, a banner of peace, and a physical representation of surrender to King Jesus as Lord. It is no command that we lift a palm branch in worship to the Lord, but it is a great delight to join those many years ago who shouted "Hosanna!" There is power in knowing that the same Jesus whom they celebrated in the streets, is the same Jesus who we celebrate today. They may have been in cloaks and we might be in blue jeans, but the tradition of preparing the way for our King still remains.

Another reason we celebrate Palm Sunday is to prepare our hearts for Easter. It is incredibly easy to allow Easter Sunday to come and go without choosing to ponder the gift of salvation and the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection. Palm Sunday reminds the church to honor Jesus as King over all and to meditate on the week of His great sacrifice. We could not have the empty tomb if we did not have the cross, and we could not have the cross if Jesus did not willingly go to it in obedience to the Father. Palm Sunday in essence is Jesus' act of obedience of going to the place where He would be our Sacrificial Lamb. He went in honor on his way to die. We celebrate that Jesus chose to go to defeat sin and grant us His victory and peace.

What Does the Bible Say about Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday was in the making long before the day it occurred. Old Testament writers prophesied the coming King. Zechariah predicted the ride into Jerusalem years before Jesus accomplished the task. As we look at Scripture as a whole, we can see the glorious unfolding of the redemptive plan.

[Zechariah 9:9](#) says, "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

There is even a verse in [Genesis 49:11](#) predicting that Jesus would ride on a donkey with a colt. "He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes." This is fulfilled in the New Testament. One example is [Matthew 21:7-8](#), "They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road."

The Savior [was predicted](#) as coming from the line (or house) of King David. [Psalm 118:24-25](#) says, "LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you" This Psalm parallels [Matthew 21:9](#), "The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Honestly, this is one of the only Kingly moments that Jesus lived on the earth. He did not demand to rule in a palace (although He could have easily), but instead, He came as a servant in humility. Of all the animals that Jesus could have ridden into the city, he chose a lowly donkey and her colt. If I were riding into town and was trying to make an impression, I would have at least considered a horse, if not an elephant. However, this is what sets Jesus apart. He came to serve and not be served. He came on a mission to sacrifice His life to reunite us with the Father.

What Happened between Palm Sunday and Easter?

After Palm Sunday, Jesus wept over Jerusalem ([Luke 19:41](#)). Then, He went to the Temple in righteous anger. People were trying to sell items in the temple. He overturned the tables and explained that the house of God would be a *house of prayer*, not a *den of thieves* ([Matthew 21:12-17](#)). Over the next few days, Jesus taught valuable lessons through parables about Himself, the kingdom of God, and the end of times.

Thursday is known as [Maundy Thursday](#). The Jewish calendar day begins at sunset. On Thursday at sunset, Jesus and His 12 disciples celebrated the Jewish Passover meal. While they were eating and drinking, He revealed that Judas (one of the disciples) would betray Him. Jesus and his 11 disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray that night. He asked them to stay awake, but even the closest disciples fell asleep. Jesus prayed so hard that He sweat blood as He begged God to *take the cup* from Him, but also accepted the Father's will. Judas came with the guards and arrested Jesus. All who were with him fled ([Mark 14:50](#)).

On Good Friday, Jesus was crucified and killed for the sins of all mankind. He was confirmed dead by a guard who pierced His side. The earth went dark and the temple curtain tore from top to bottom. Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb and his body was guarded. Saturday was a day of sadness for the disciples and those who loved Jesus. However, Easter Sunday came around and Jesus rose from the dead. He revealed Himself to His disciples and His followers after that. Jesus conquered sin once and for all and He became our Savior.

What Does Palm Sunday Have to Do with Easter and Why Is it Important?

When the people shouted "Hosanna!" they were hailing Christ as King. That word actually means "[save now](#)," and though in their own minds they waited for an earthly king, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him.

Palm Sunday is significant to Easter because it was the welcoming of the Savior. The triumphal entry was a foreshadowing of the victorious resurrection. These events can even prepare our hearts now for the day when Christ returns.

The triumphal entry is included in all four gospels. Any event that is in the Bible one time is significant. When a recorded event is shared across various books of Scripture, we should pay close attention. We do not want to miss the value in something that the Lord wants repeated to us. Repetition brings understanding.

[John 12:13](#) says, "So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'"

So when we enter a church service and palm branches are waving, may we be reminded of the great sacrifice that Jesus made and the obedience that He had to the Father. May we pick up our branches and hold them in the air proudly, knowing that we share in His victory. And may the waving of our palms move our hearts to prepare for Jesus' return.

Prayer Vigil

One of the most powerful ways that we can prepare for Easter Sunday is through prayer. We pray for our own spiritual nourishment, to intercede for other that we know within the church and our families, and to ask the Holy Spirit to move in people’s hearts that might know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We want to invite our congregation to “keep watch” in preparation for Easter by joining in a prayer vigil in our Sanctuary starting Maundy Thursday (March 28) at 7p through Good Friday (March 29) at 12noon. There is a sign up sheet as you come in the entrance headed to the office. You can sign up for a one hour time slot that you would like to come to the church and pray or you pray at home during your chosen hour.




Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday, March 31, during the Sunday School hour. What is needed?

- Kids to participate so INVITE!!
- Volunteers to help manage the event
- Candy to fill eggs

Please see Katie for more information.



24
Chase Shierling
27
Jim Leary
Jeanne Watson

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- ✿ In memory of Sue Braun by Margaret Henley, Linda Clements, Eagle’s Landing Community
- ✿ In memory of Barbara Phillips by Pilgrims Sunday School Class
- ✿ In memory of Warren McDow by Larry White, Lynn Matthews, Carol Graham
- ✿ In memory of Floyd Griggs by Mariann Ellis, Mary Frances Lofue, Lynn Mayfield
- ✿ In memory of Bill Outz by Margaret Henley
- ✿ In memory of Ed Logue’s birthday by Mary Frances Logue

Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone who came out last week and weekend to pack and move the clothes closet to our new location in the Outreach Building. A special thanks to Tommy for his vision, leadership, and guidance in making this move possible; we are thrilled to be sharing the building with the Food Pantry. Opening Day for the Open Door Mission Closet will be April 3rd from 9am until 12 noon every Wednesday. We would love for you to stop in for a brief visit when possible and/or become a volunteer. We work on a rotating basis so you would not be obligated to work every week. Please see Brenda if you are interested. Tuesdays will become our new Sorting/Processing day and volunteers are also needed on that day. We will continue to accept donations in April for spring and summer clothes. ~~ Brenda ~~




- ✓ 03-24-24 Palm Sunday
- ✓ 03/25-27/24 Monday-Wednesday Prayer/Communion 11a-noon
- ✓ 03-28-24 Maundy Thursday Service 6p
- ✓ 03-28-24 Prayer Vigil 6:30p til noon Friday
- ✓ 03-29-24 Good Friday Service 12 noon
- ✓ 03-31-24- Easter Sunday

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry has begun opening every Wednesday, 10a-1p with a new format and process for recipients... also, volunteering will be on rotation now, so get with Cheri and sign up... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
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- **The Closet will be closed March 26th.**

| Bible Reading Plan | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Week of March 24 th : | |
| Sunday..... | Hebrews 11 |
| Monday..... | Hebrews 12 |
| Tuesday..... | Hebrews 13 |
| Wednesday..... | James 1 |
| Thursday..... | James 2 |
| Friday..... | James 3 |
| Saturday..... | James 4 |



New Concerns
Kimberly Cochran and Family
Barbara Bruschke
Family of Floyd Griggs
J.O. Miller
Gary Hawk
Mary Leary
Kathy Holland

Continue Prayers for:
Mollie Austin
Pat Maddox
Barbara Carter
Family of Sue Braun
Lisa McDonald
Rae Cox
Family of Bill Outz
Mac McCullough

Christa Avret
Michael & Jennie Walston
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Hailey Holder Allen
Bill Reedy
Sarah Mayer
Cary Martin
Mac McNeal
James McNeal
Our Country, Leaders, Military

| Finance Report for | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| March 17 | |
| Operating Budget..... | \$9,746.26 |
| Clothes Closet..... | 25.00 |
| Food Pantry..... | 224.00 |
| Total..... | \$9,995.26 |
| Worship Attendance | |
| 162 | |
| Sunday School | |
| 47 | |

Friendship Sunday

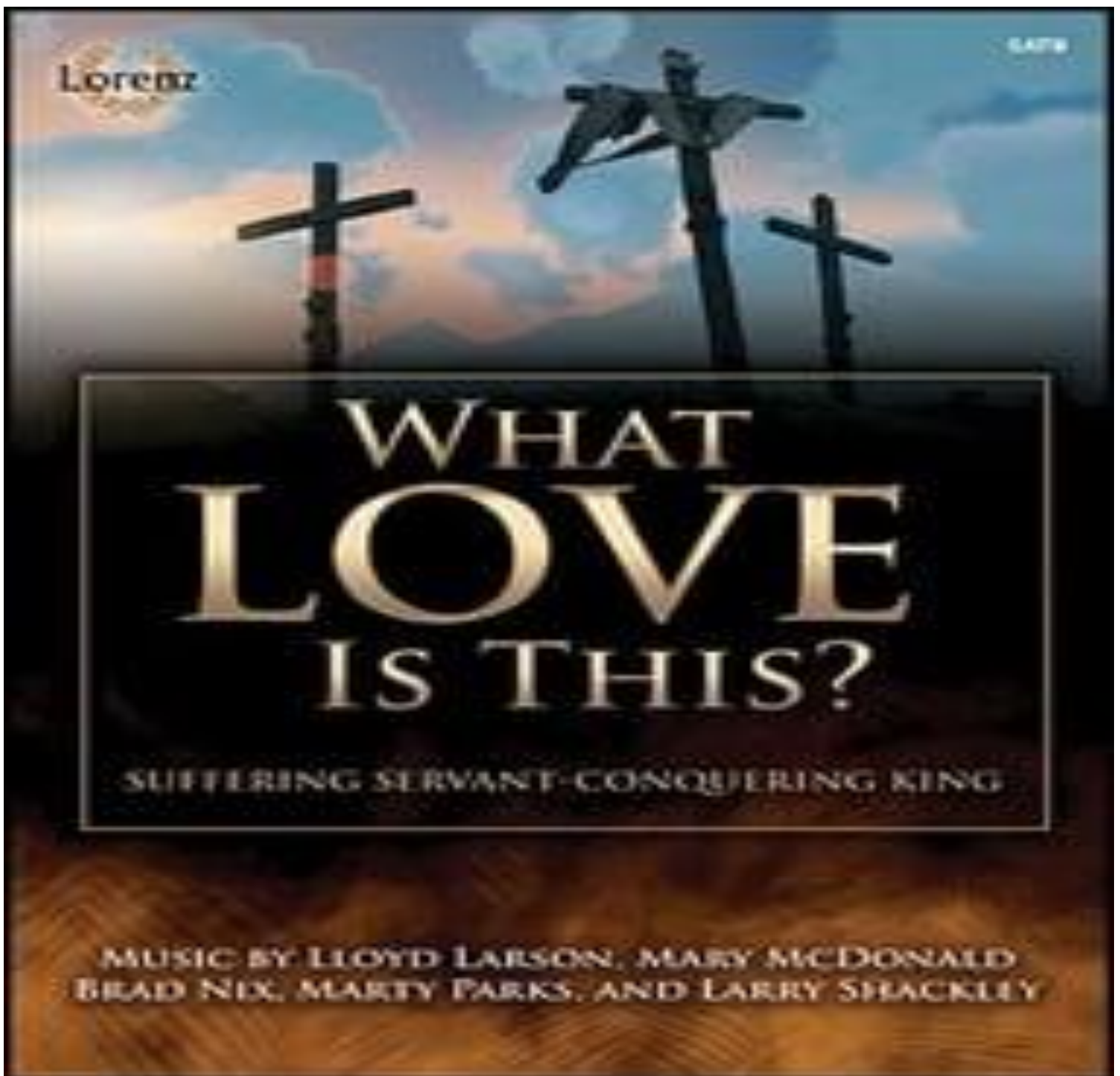
Since this month's 5th Sunday falls on Easter, Admin Council voted to move it to Friendship Sunday, which is the Sunday after Easter, April 7 and of course, after the Worship Service. The church will provide fried chicken, so bring your favorite side dish to offer for some food, fun and fellowship.



Our next Blood Drive will be April 12, 2024, 1p-5p in the Fellowship Hall. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: The Well at Centerville to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome, too!

Easter Cantata

The Chancel Choir will bring us "What Love Is This" on Sunday, March 24 at 10:30a.



Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- March 24

Palm Sunday

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship

Greeters

10:30a Lynn Mayfield, Cynthia Boutwell

Communion Servers

Vicky Moore, Lee Love
Stevie Bowen & Kay Kelley

Finance Stewards

J.O. Miller, Gary Rutke, Mel Smeltz

Assisting with Children

Sunday- March 24

Nursery- Dawn, Laura
Children- Brenda Crow

Sunday- March 31

Nursery- Joy Fleming, Dawn
Children- Sherry Armour

Monday- March 25

11a-12p Prayer/Communion

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- March 26

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Partners in Prayer
10:00a Yoga

11a-12p Prayer/Communion

Wednesday- March 27

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
10a-1p Food Pantry
11a-12p Prayer Communion
6:30p Choir Practice
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- March 28

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Yoga
6:00p Maundy Thursday
6:30p Handbells
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- March 29

12 noon Good Friday Service
12p-3p Young at Heart
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- March 30

10a-2p Pick up Hams
7:30p . Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth

Studies

Easter Bible Story
Matthew
Revelation
2 Corinthians
Message of the Empty Tomb

Teacher

LaWanna Porter
Katie Odum
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson



Carter



Cooked

Easter Hams

Now on sale by The Men

Pick up Saturday, March 30th

10a and 2p

**See J.O., Mel, Jim, Stevie or come by the
office for your ticket(s)**

Remember, they freeze well!!



\$40