

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2026

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven.

Open to us the gates of righteousness.

We will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

Jesus comes to us in humility and peace.

Let us welcome Christ with joy and faithful hearts.

PRELUDE – *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* - John Carter

Choir/Congregation

Choir: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Choir/Congregation: Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang!

Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus who had blessed them close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

Choir: From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of men and angels rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.

Choir/Congregation: "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,

For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav'n , our King.

O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence, eternally rejoice!

Choir: Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Call upon God while God is near.

Wicked, forsake your ways!

Unrighteous, forsake your thoughts.

Come back to God.

Return to the Lord!

Come back to God.

Return to the Lord!

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

(Isaiah 55:6-7; Joel 2: 13)

BLESSING OF PALMS

(please hold high your palm branches for this blessing!)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and redeemer.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344)**

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,

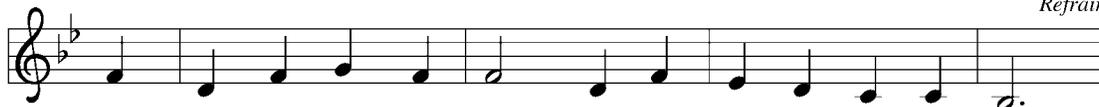


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.
Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

- ⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens,
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
- ⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

- ⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I^l am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat^l and my belly.

¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.**

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street | they avoid me.

¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;
I am as useless as a | broken pot.**

¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.
I have said, “You | are my God.**

¹⁵ My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "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."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹ 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!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev. Julia Brown

***Please stand as you are able for the final verse**

HYMN OF THE DAY *There in God's Garden* (ELW 342)



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982
Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950
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Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' CREED.

***CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Please respond.)**

P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hillert) (ELW 186)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (ELW 338)



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!* (ELW 346)**



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear 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; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
 pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.
 Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993
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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

ORGAN POSTLUDE Recessional on “Ellacombe” – John Carter

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SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor	Rev. Julia Brown
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Aaron Shreiner
Acolyte	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering.....	Ron Coldsmith & Rich McEntire
Communion Set-Up.....	Marjorie Dale
Communion Clean-Up	Marjorie Dale
Communion Bread	Frances Reichard
Communion Assist.....	Marjorie Dale
Attendance Last Sunday.....	32

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Nellie Hess and Harold Gayman given by Mark and Sally Gayman.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Julia Brown by email to pastor@solomonslutheran.org or phone 703-434-9220.

Prayer requests for the following: *Eva Stahl, Amy Eichelberger, Paul Steiding, Clif Rau, Dennis Hose, Sam Brooks, Ellie Martin, Kaitlyn Dovey, Patsy Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Charles Carl, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Becky Ensinger, all the Homebound, and our world & country. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.*

Please Be Aware: *We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.*

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

- April 1 - Choir 7pm
- 2 - Maundy Thursday Service at Solomons UCC 7pm
- 3 - Good Friday Service 7pm
- 4 - Easter Egg Hunt 11am

Holy Week begins this morning with our Palm Sunday worship. There are several other worship opportunities during this most holy week. Maundy Thursday worship, including the stripping of the altar and Holy Communion will be a combined service at Solomons UCC at 7 PM. Good Friday worship returns here to Solomons Lutheran at 7 PM in another combined service, the Service of the Tenebrae, which includes the reading of the Passion of Christ and accompanying hymns. Finally, Easter Sunday worship will be here at 10:45 AM, with Holy Communion. Special music for this festival service will begin at 10:30 AM. Invite family and friends to join us during this special week.

Solomon's Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 4 at 11:00AM - Solomon's Picnic Woods. All children 12 and under are invited.

Bible Study - Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the fellowship center conference room.

April 8 - The Book of Jude. Resource: <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-jude/>

April 22 - The Book of Philemon. Resource: <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-philemon/>

May 6 - The Book of Titus. Resource: <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-titus/>

May 20 - The Gospel of John.

Choir members are reminded that this week's rehearsal is on **Wednesday, April 1, at 7 PM.** That will be our final rehearsal for Good Friday and Easter. Please make every effort to attend!

During the month of April, Social Ministry will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. Paper products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps. Items needed are toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, hand wipes, diapers, etc. Please place the items in the totes under the coat rack, next to the mailboxes.

Qigong/Tai Chi Class will be starting **April 15th Wednesdays at 7:00pm** at Solomon's Church main Sunday school room. This is an open class. All movement is done standing. Sitting can be an option. All exercises are mild. For more information contact: Colleen Johnson.

Orioles and Yankees Game – Tuesday, May 12. Need to leave early (around 3:15p.m.), it is a night game. Wolf's Bus Line. Price is \$127 which includes the ride to and from Camden Yards, ticket, and tip. We need at least 27 people and ½ down payment. We will leave from Solomon's Church. Friends and family welcome. If interested, call Linda.

If you are not taking your altar flowers home, please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

The 2026 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room. Please sign up for as many as you can.

The 2026 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$60.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$60.00 with the bulletin information.

Power Pack Meals: We are once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2025-2026 school year. Please place the items you donate in the tote in the Sunday School room. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Our opening hymn this morning, *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*, was written by Theodulph, Bishop of Orleans, a city south of Paris. He was a church leader who worked hard for clergy reform, established schools and advanced education, advocated high morals, built churches, and composed hymns of praise to God. On Easter Sunday in the year 818, he was imprisoned by the King of France in a monastery near Paris. It is said that while he was imprisoned, he meditated on Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem prior to His crucifixion and resurrection, and penned the words to this great Palm Sunday hymn. Tradition has it that when King Louis heard Theodulph singing this hymn from the windows of the monastery, the King was so moved that he immediately ordered the Bishop's release. Originally, there were 39 verses to this hymn! The first several are the ones we sing today. The text to this hymn was set to other tunes by other composers, including J. S. Bach in his *St. John Passion*. ([Then Sings My Soul](#), Robert J. Morgan; Wikipedia).

Today's communion hymn, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," was written by Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869). She wrote this poem shortly before her death as a personal statement about her feelings while meditating on the meaning of the cross. In the first stanza, the cross is depicted as a desert oasis where we can recover from the stress of life. Stanza two reminds us of the great cost of that oasis – Jesus suffered and died because of his great love for us. The last stanza echoes the words of Paul: "whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Jesus Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 3: 7-8a). Somewhat Victorian in style and language, this hymn still holds a popular place in Lent and Holy Week services. ([Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins](#): Austin Lovelace; Hymnary.org).

Our sending hymn this morning is "Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty." Written by Henry H. Milman (1791-1868), the hymn is designated for the "Sixth Sunday in Lent," also known as Palm Sunday. Milman became Dean of St. Paul's in London, but it was while he was Professor of Poetry at Oxford that he wrote this hymn. The theme of the entire hymn is "Majesty." Milman represents the Passion of Christ with royalty, seeing the cross in terms of victory rather than defeat. It is an effective presentation of the dual themes of Palm Sunday: meekness and majesty, sacrifice and conquest, suffering and glory. ([Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins](#): Austin C. Lovelace, pg. 90).