

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 29, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Lent
Palm Sunday



Gathering As a People of God

At PCO we strive to be a faithful, open, and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any age, ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Preparation: "I'm slowly becoming aware of how much is at stake in daring to live the story of salvation in the present tense. It shifts the grammar of the questions we ask about our own lives, and so it also shifts something in us. It brings accountability. ... Instead of asking what I might have done had I seen Jesus paraded to his crucifixion, I must confront the question: Who are the crucified people of our times? Salvation is no longer a story about other people but one about us." Author, Stephanie Saldaña, Christian Century, March 18, 2026

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Processional

William Held

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Choral Introit

This is the Day the Lord Hath Made

Johann Crüger

PCO Chancel Choir

Shelby Laird, director

* **Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 118, The Passover Praise Psalm) Linda Cravotta, Liturgist

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

All: Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

All: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

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

One: The Lord is God, and has given us light.

All: Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

One: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

All: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

* **Hymn #196**

All Glory Laud and Honor, vs. 1-4

[Valet Will Ich Dir Geben]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Let us face this day of palms and Jesus' passion with honesty, confessing our sin before God.

All: Holy God, sure of your faithfulness even in your dying, comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age, we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude. We have looked to you for paltry favors, when you have given everything. We have too often withheld from your people, our neighbors, and from your creation, our Earth, the care and tending they deserve. Forgive our failings. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision, so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you; in Jesus' name. *Time of silence. Amen.*

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Our God has come to us, humble, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to free us from the weight of sin and death. Our sins are forgiven, in the name of the one who is exalted beyond what we can comprehend: Christ, our Savior and Lord

All: Thanks be to God for the new creation we are in Christ.

One: Friends, now that God has forgiven us, let us forgive one another with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

* Act of Praise #447

The musical notation is for a three-staff piece in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." The chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Linda Cravotta, Liturgist

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

*The Path to Repair and Restoration:
Proclaim the One Who Comes in the Name of the Lord*
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Anthem

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, director

Setting by Hal Hopson

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Steps on the Path to Repair and Restoration: Action Items for the Sixth Week of Lent
Returning to God a Portion of What God Has Given Us

Offertory

Ride on, King Jesus!
Amira Coleman, soloist

Traditional Spiritual
Arr. Hall Johnson

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Linda Cravotta, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

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.

Sent Out As a People of God

*** Hymn #209**

My Song Is Love Unknown, vs. 1, 3, 5
[Love Unknown]

*** Charge and Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Michael Burkhardt

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Jennifer Gordon, Sue Cobbett, Dorinda VanKempen

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Elliot Ryser and Shirley Rumminger for supplying our snacks for fellowship time and to Mitch Marcus for taking care of the coffee.

The Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Illumination are adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1* Westminster John Knox Press, 2013

No Education Hour this morning. Spring Break and preparation for the Path to Palm Sunday from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Holy Week @ PCO

Maundy Thursday April 2 at 7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday - April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Okemos Community Church (OCC) 4734 Okemos Road; John Rutter's Requiem sung by a joint choir from PCO & OCC.

Easter Worship - April 5 at 10:00 a.m. Featuring Brass Quintet, Handbells, and the Chancel Choir. Easter brunch for all following worship!

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Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
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