

**PALM / PASSION SUNDAY
(SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT)**

April 13, 2025

Luke 24:36b-48

Into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, where the passion of our Lord will play out before us, ending in his death on the Good Friday cross. But for now, we gather with that ancient crowd, waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (which means “save us!”).

On this day, we praise Christ our King who gave new meaning to that title “king.” For Jesus wasn’t like King Saul who towered in physical strength nor was he like King Solomon who was surrounded by wealth and great wisdom. Jesus was a king who chose the way of servanthood and who rode a humble animal rather than a warhorse. And yet the streets still overflowed with people wanting to welcome this man who had stirred the countryside with his radical message of God’s all-encompassing love.

Before riding into Jerusalem, Jesus asked his disciples to get a donkey and a colt. The disciples questioned Jesus if the animals’ owner would give them freely. Jesus replied, “Just say the Lord needs them.” Sure enough, the disciples didn’t run into any hesitation and were able to secure the animals for their friend.

We rarely linger on this detail in the story of Jesus’ passion, preferring to focus on the palm-waving fanfare. But let’s leave that cheering crowd for a moment and linger, asking ourselves what it is that the Lord needs of us.

Perhaps not a donkey, but a trusting heart? Perhaps not a colt, but our time to help others no matter how stretched our time seems to be?

Can we give drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry and clothing to the naked? Can we give Jesus our commitment to stay by his side when others fall by the way-side? Can we wait in patient faith for resurrection promises amid our dark nights of the soul?

My friends, the truth is that the Lord needs much more than a humble animal to ride on. He needs our hearts.

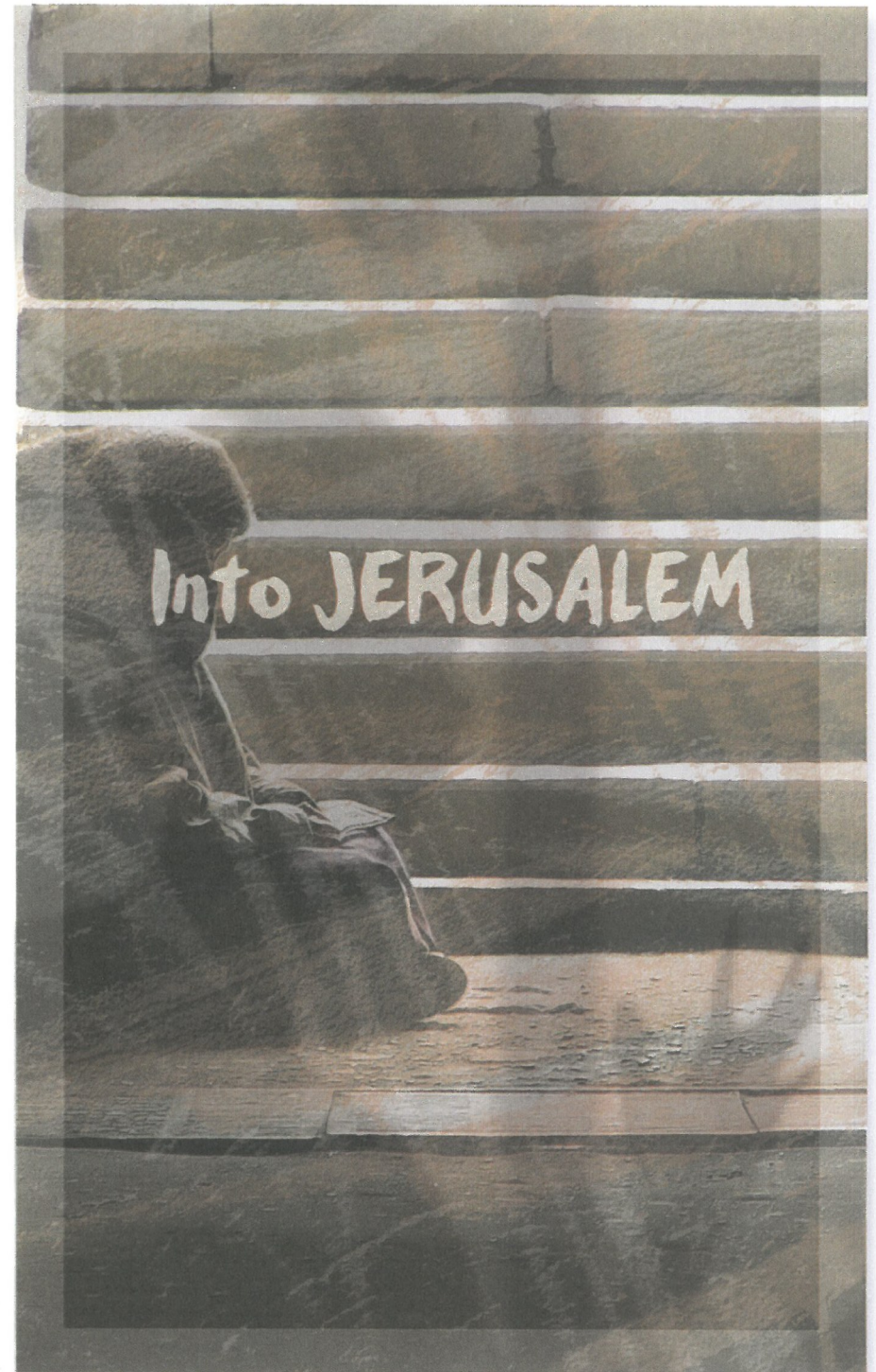
Come, let us rejoin that Palm Sunday crowd knowing that all too soon those hosannas will fade. Hold on to your palm branch tightly, though. Hold on and listen for all the Jesus is asking of you.

Redeeming God, we are quick to sing Your praises when things go our way, but when life’s cheers turn to jeers, we quickly doubt and run from the grace of Your Son Jesus. Help us to be present now and always to our Savior, giving whatever it is He asks of us this day. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
A United Church of Christ
(708) 865-1282

Palm Sunday

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!

April 13, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff

Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759

Lawrence Underwood, Music Director

Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director

Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor
& Associate Pastor

Altar Flowers: Judy Weismann in Memory of Her Mother

Kathleen Weismann

Liturgist: Peggy Boswell

Ushers: Noreen Love and Shirley Patton

Greeter: Bill Gurin and Linda Clarke

Zoom: Deb Barker

Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ

1840 Westchester Boulevard

Westchester, IL 60154

708/865-1282

www.westchesterucc.org

Email: westcomchurch@hotmail.com

**(If you have a prayer request you’d like to share with us,
go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in
so we can share it with others)**

****ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM
SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR
UNLESS IT’S A TIME TO SHARE**

***Please remember to sign the Red Booklet at the end of every
pew. If you have any prayer request please put them into the
offertory plates so Pastor Joe can receive them.***

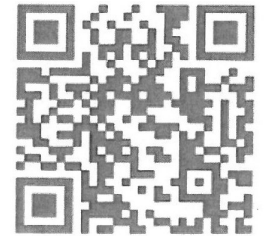
There are In Touch cards in the pews if you want to fill them out .

Please put them in the offertory plates.

Thank You, Your Parish Fellowship Board

**FOR THOSE ON ZOOM AND
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT**

We truly encourage you to use our online giving tool, Which you can access through our website. When you are at home on Zoom, or away on trips, Our bills here at church don’t go away. We need your help!! Remember to give, and if it is a special gift, There is a way to make a note on the Vanco page. Make clear what the donation s for!!! Thank you!!



Manna news!!! Easter, Graduations, Mothers Day and Fathers Day are fast approaching so, consider buying a gift cards from Manna!

Manna is a program where people order gift cards through the church, we order them through a company that gives us a discount on the cards and we keep the discount. So, you pay the value of the card, you GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, and WE earn money. It’s a win, win. With each order the church pays the tax and shipping fees.

Manna forms are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Manna orders & payment is due the last Sunday of the month, and are distributed by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Manna is great for gifts, donating for In-reach, and for places you shop. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please see Charlene Dolnics or Sue Becerra.

The Westchester Food Pantry holds a **Spring Fling Artisan Market**, with handcrafted goods, Sunday, March 23, from 11-4 at their site, 1938 S. Mannheim Rd. in Westchester.

Bike Rodeo and Resource Fair

April 26, 2025 from 1to 4pm Everyone is welcome especially those who would like safer streets for children, families and adults. You’ll learn how to use your bike, wear a helmet, rules of the road and more. Westchester Intermediate School 11900 Canterbury St, Westchester. Free! Register now at bit.ly/bike2025.

Ladies Weekend at Tower Hill.....

Thinking ahead 5 months to June. Giving you a heads-up to start planning your summer calendar. What a wonderful thought! The dates have been set for June 6-7-8th. This weekend is open to ALL ladies of the church. More information to follow! Those interested please sign the sheet in the Narthex.

Any questions contact Lou Bender or Barb Mills

The Deacons are selling Easter plants (lilies, tulips, and hyacinths). They are \$12 each and picked up after worship on Easter Sunday. Someone will be in the narthex the next two weeks or you can call the church office and place your order. Let's make the Sanctuary smell like Spring!

Support our **In-Reach Fund for EASTER**. Monies help our own members in medical emergencies, or rent, or just to make it possible to breathe. Please make out a check or on-line gift, and mark it "**In-Reach**".

The Music Board proudly presents **On the Air 50's Hit Parade, sung by the Cordially Yours musical group**, directed by Judy Schindler.



This fundraiser is **Sunday, April 27th at 11:15 am** with a luncheon will be served after. Cordially Yours are singers including parishioners and their friends from Mary, Mother of Divine Grace and our very own Kathy Marinier. This 45-minute medley brings great tunes from the 50's. Following we

serve Tacos, Gluten Free Mexican Caserole, beans, and Churro bars. Tickets are \$12 per person and will be available before & after church, in the church office. Buy your tickets by Sunday, April 20th, as a limited number of tickets will be available the day of the event.

Our Kitchen certification will expire in June. We need someone willing to take the test and recertify the kitchen in their name. We need to keep our kitchen certified so we can host dinners and such if we have a fish fry again or spaghetti dinner. We otherwise cannot sell to the public. Questions please see Noreen Love.

Children's Theatre of Western Springs presents "**SpongeBob The Musical**" on April 11th—19th 2025. 4384 Hampton Ave Western Springs 708.246.3380 theatreofwesternsprings.com

WISH LIST for Women's Society Closet—Paper Towels, Zip Lock Bags (quart and gallon), 8 inch and 10 inch Heavy Duty Paper Plates and Distilled Water. Please if you can donate any of these items bring them to the church office.

Westchester Food Pantry 2025 Yard Sale Extravaganza will be held on May 29th, 30th and 31st. Donation Drop-Off Days are Saturday, April 1st and Saturday, May 3rd from 9—11am at our church.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Mother Teresa, when interviewed by Johnny Carson on *The Tonight Show*, and asked about how she'd handle the accolades that came with winning the Nobel Peace prize: "Do you think, Mr. Carson, for one moment, that that little donkey thought the crowd was giving him the praise and glory instead of Jesus?"

PRELUDE Lawrence Underwood
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Boswell
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Mills
*WE MOVE TOWARD THE CROSS #267
"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

*CALL TO WORSHIP Peggy Boswell
Leader: Turn your hearts toward the Lord, as Jesus turned His life toward the cross.

People: We want to show the world our deepest thanksgiving for who our Lord is; we want to show each other that we want to give our lives over to Him.

Leader: So turn your hearts toward the Lord, and make a new commitment to carry Your cross in His Name.

ALL: AND MAY WE, TOGETHER, HELP MAKE REAL WHAT LIFE IN CHRIST SHOULD BE LIKE. COME, LET US GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD!

A Reading from God's Holy Word Peggy Boswell
From the Gospel: Luke 19:28-40 p. 63, NT, Pew Bible
p. 101, NT, Large Print

*A GLORIA PATRI #734
"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen."

SPECIAL MUSIC WCC BELL CHOIR
"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"
"Again I Say Rejoice"

WE PRAY TO THE LORD #357, vv. 1 & 2
"Knowing You"

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Mills
THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

*THE DOXOLOGY

#34

***"Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."***

*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison) Peggy Boswell

**You want Your Kingdom to come, but in a way
that truly uses us. Whether or not we think You need
us, You want us to show our commitment to You.
Thank You for being that patient, that inviting, that You
would let us help You. So receive our great hope in
making real Your Kingdom, and breathe Your Spirit
upon these gifts and into our spirits that we will help
You and make alive our faith. Amen.**

A Reading from God's Holy Word

Peggy Boswell

From the Epistles: Philippians 2:5-11

p. 152, NT, Pew Bible

p. 240, NT, Large Print

THE MEDITATION - "Equal to God and Equal to Us"

Pastor Mills

*WE GIVE THANKS FOR HIS PASSION

#356

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Mills

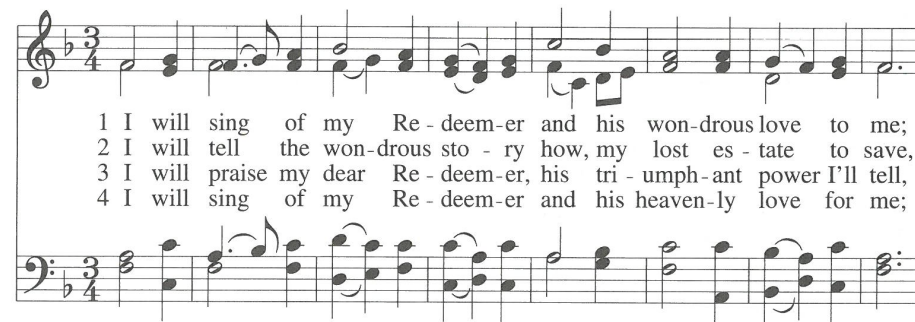
THE POSTLUDE

Lawrence Underwood

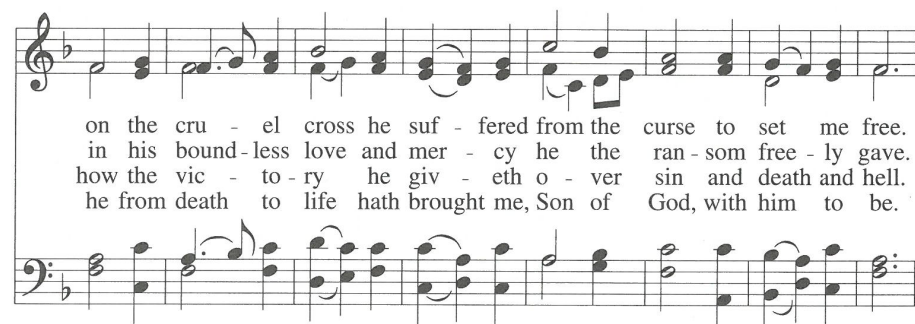
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Today is "**Bring a Friend to Church Sunday**". We
have an **Ice Cream Social** after service sponsored by
our Parish Fellowship Board. Come downstairs to our
Field Fellowship Hall and enjoy!!

I Will Sing of My Redeemer 356

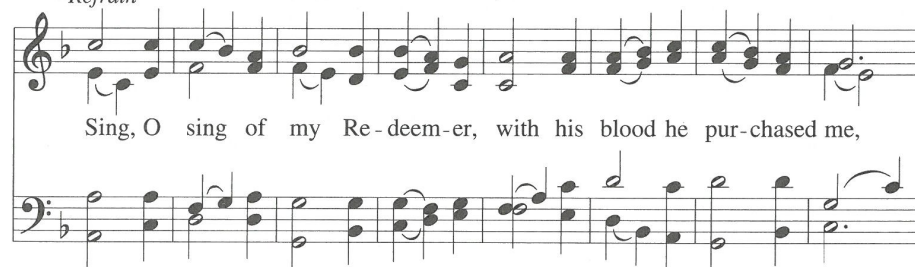


1 I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his won-drous love to me;
2 I will tell the won-drous sto-ry how, my lost es-tate to save,
3 I will praise my dear Re-deem-er, his tri-umph-ant power I'll tell,
4 I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his heaven-ly love for me;



on the cru-el cross he suf-fered from the curse to set me free.
in his bound-less love and mer-cy he the ran-som free-ly gave.
how the vic-to-ry he giv-eth o-ver sin and death and hell.
he from death to life hath brought me, Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain



Sing, O sing of my Re-deem-er, with his blood he pur-chased me,



on the cross he sealed my par-don, paid the debt, and made me free.

Knowing You

Unison

1 All I once held dear, built my life up - on, all this
 (2 Now my) heart's de - sire is to know you more, to be
 (3 Oh, to) know the power of your ris - en life and to

world re - veres and wars to own. All I
 found in you, and known as yours. To pos -
 know you in your suf - fer - ings. To be -

once thought gain I have count - ed loss, spent and
 sess by faith what I could earn, all sur -
 come like you in your death, my Lord, so with

worth - less now com - pared to this.
 pass - ing gift of right - eous - ness.
 you to live and nev - er die.

Refrain

Know - ing you, Je - sus, know - ing you, there is no great - er
 thing. You're my all, you're the best, you're my

joy, my right - eous - ness, and I love you, Lord.

2 Now my
 3 Oh, to

I love you, Lord.

CALENDAR

TODAY

Palm Sunday Worship 10 am
 Chicago Tamil UCC Worship, 12:30 pm
 Pastor at EDC meeting, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Play Practice, 7 p.m. Offices
 Zoom Bible Study, 9:30 am THIS WEEK
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/961336622>

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 p.m.

9-Noon Good Friday Prayer Time

Noon—Chicago Tamil UCC worship

7 p.m. —our Good Friday Worship

Easter Breakfast 8:30am FFH

EASTER 10:00 a.m. Worship

Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

NEXT SUNDAY

THINKING AHEAD...

Sassy Stitchers—3rd Tuesday of the month from 1pm to 3pm

Women's Book Club— Our next Book Club will be Wednesday, April 30th, 4:30pm in the first floor classroom. Bring your own Dinner! Call Barb Mills to join us.

Scrapbooking and Diamond Art Dates: May 1—3. Please come join us!

Card Making—Friday, April 25th at 10am in the south basement

Fall Craft Sale— will be held on November 15. Setup is November 12, 13 and 14th Please mark these dates in your calendar!

BIRTHDAYS THRU 4/20/25

4/13 Craig Marousek, Elise Rowe

4/15 Sharon Marczuk

4/16 Godly Raj Jerome

4/17 Melanie Samonds, Janet Finnigan

4/20 Charlene Dolnics, Elayne Dalheim

ANNIVERSARIES THRU 4/20/25

4/15 Guillermo and Peggy Ruiz 36 years

4/16 Gregory and Doris Blomberg 53 years

We will have our Annual Plant Sale to benefit our Youth Group and Confirmands!! Order forms are in the narthex and the website.

It is slightly different this year—we will be picking up the plants on Thursday, May 15 and have them here at the church later that day.

Please have the orders in by Easter Sunday, April 20!!!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:

Doris Blomberg, Linda Belice, Minnie Rice, Frank Fleming, Marge Nelson, Lorraine Feehan, Chris Stout, Marilyn Sinde, Dave Else, Allen Meskan, Lou Bender, Virginia Hodina, Jeannie Rowe, Caroline Long, Char Schwass, Jimmy Marczuk, Paul Barnes, Bettyann Richeson, Betty Koenig, Isabella Brumwell, Wayne Scharlach, Allan Boyd, Ed Monahan, Karen Hart, Bill & Maggie Smith, George Long, Mary Kay Baca, Chuck Yeiser, Dave Vrablic, Emil Poprawski, Benny Locigno, Ellie Merritt, Barb Sweazey, James Hixon, Judy Frandsen, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Patrick McCarthy



FRIENDS IN PRAYERS: Joyce Barbee, Marie Brewster, Andee Brown-Roth, Bob Chappell, Bill and Kimble Compton, Bob and Jean, Kathy D'Autino, Dominick DiBrizzii, Sr., Drake Dennis/Family, Father Neil Fackler, Charlie Feehan, Ashley Feeney, Nancy Fiala-Zinn, Ann Franz, Herman Goodloe, Brandon Gumel, Kyle Hall, Karen and Bob; Karen Hekr, Helen Hicks, Ken & Herta, Janice Lombardi, Julie McGee, Julie McLean, Frieda McKinnon, Jane McNamee, Don and Sue Meyer, Joseph Mills Jr., Amy Morlier, Betty Moticka, Eric Odelson, Pat (cousin to Linda Belice), Connie Petrik, Carol Popple (sister to Charlene Dolnics), Diana & Larry Ridener, Scott Rouse, Sammy (niece to Sue Becerra/Sally France), Gary Schultz, Roy Swanson, Jackie Tomany, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Gwendolyn and Bob Westlund, Monica Wojdziak, Charles Woodman

OUR MILITARY: Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler is deployed; Jay & Bri Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks—Peace Corp. South Africa

HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term: Jim Craver (our Jim's father)—Nursing Facility, Lil Klippel - Radcliffe; Steve Tomporowski - Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (Terra Vista, OakBrook Terrace)

And special prayers for the people along rivers in Southern Illinois and northern Kentucky in the terrible flooding.

We celebrate with **John and Bekki Moore** in the birth of son **Malachi**, born prematurely on 4/4—4 lb.s, 8 ozs. Keep them in prayers!

PALM SUNDAY

267

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang:
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven our King.

to Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

WORDS: Jennette Threlfall (1821-1880); para. Matthew 21:1-11
MUSIC: Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle, 1784

ELLACOMBE
7.6.7.6.D.