



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

The Host
Who Becomes
the Meal

THE **LAST SUPPER**

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm/Passion Sunday

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Arr. Gilbert Martin
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Call to Worship

One: Lenten travelers, the journey to the cross begins with a procession into Jerusalem, a demonstration of Jesus' saving power.

All: We come to praise Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

One: The crowds line the path and shout "Hosanna! Save us!" as Jesus rides in, not on a mighty war horse, but on the back of a humble colt.

All: We come to call on Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

One: The city murmurs, wondering who this person is who demonstrates power through humility, strength without tyranny.

All: We come to witness Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

One: Lenten travelers, will you come on the journey to Jerusalem, following a Messiah who saves us to live after the pattern of the kin-dom of God, not the kingdoms of this world? Will you follow a Messiah who gathers us at his table and gives himself as the meal?

All: We come to follow Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Choral Introit

Hosanna to the King of Kings

Lloyd Larson
©2011 Beckenhorst Press

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

UMH 278

1. 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.
2. From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
3. "Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.

O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

Blessing for Young Hearts

Prayers of the People

*A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.
Online Worshipers may type prayer requests in the Live Chat, taking care for privacy.*

Pastoral Prayer

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 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. Amen.

Prayer Response

O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer

Arr. Donald Moore

©1996 Belwin-Mills Publishing Co.

WE HEAR THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 22:9-21 (CEB)

They said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?"

Jesus replied, "When you go into the city, a man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters. Say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher says to you, "Where is the guestroom where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?"' He will show you a large upstairs room, already furnished. Make preparations there." They went and found everything just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the time came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles joined him. He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I tell you, I won't eat it until it is fulfilled in God's kingdom." After taking a cup and giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. I tell you that from now on I won't drink from the fruit of the vine until God's kingdom has come." After taking the bread and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after the meal and said, "This cup is the new covenant by my blood, which is poured out for you.

“But look! My betrayer is with me; his hand is on this table.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

That's Where Love Will Find Me
Chancel Choir, Jayson Coleman, Solo

Aspinal/McDonald
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Message

The Host Who Becomes the Meal

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Near the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith
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† Doxology

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

† Prayer of Confession

portions written by Ruth Duck,
reprinted by permission of Touch Holiness

All: O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us, and we turn against you, too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you. Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you again. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

One: Listen to this good news: the host who was betrayed, refused, and nailed to a cross did not stay in the tomb. He returned to the table, broke bread with his friends, and said, "I am among you as one who serves." The meal is not over. There is still room, and there is still bread. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Stripping of the Altar

Let This Mind Be In You

Craig Courtney
©1992 Beckenhorst Press

Closing Hymn

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

UMH 286

1. O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!
2. What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.
3. What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for thee.

Benediction

Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: from Peter McCreight in honor of his wife Sandy's birthday on April 3rd
Liturgist: Tom Huse
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley, Russell Toppi
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Pastor Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Pastor Rob Shearer, Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Office Manager;
Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Erin Wyr, NS Executive Director