**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

**April 13, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
2) our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

3) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>

If the video feed is interrupted during the service, we will continue to record and then post the full video on Facebook and our web site as soon as possible.

 Gathering Music/Photo Story: “Palm Sunday”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (Psalm 118:19-27)

 Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

 **All:** **Hosanna in the highest!**

 Prelude*: How Firm a Foundation*

**“His Triumphant Entry” (Children of Southminster)**

**…Narrator E:** Large Passover crowds surrounded Jesus, shouting

*Congregation, stand if you are able as you respond
 and lay down branches and cloth as Jesus makes his way to the front.*

**Congregation:** **“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”**

*Congregation, please be seated.*

**…Narrator G/Narrator C:** Following this glorious time of celebration, Jesus Christ began his final journey to the cross.

*Actors and others proceed out of sanctuary.
 Congregation, please stand if you are able and respond as they exit.*

**Congregation:** **“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”**

 Hymn 196: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (verses 1, 2)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, you came to us in Jesus Christ, and we are grateful, but we have held back from making you the cornerstone of our lives. Be first in our lives; be the foundation and rock of our lives. Knowing that anything we build without you will not last, we seek you to guide us and be our firm foundation. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both Lord and Savior. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 The Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34)

 Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

 **People: Only Christ and Christ died for us!**

 Leader: Christ rose for us!

 **People: Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

 Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

 **All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

 Response: *Kyrie* pg. 1, gold supplement

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

 (The words are Greek for *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*)

CCLI Song # 2691048

Antonin Leopold Dvorak | Ruth Elaine Schram

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children
 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As the children leave:

 *God Welcomes All*  Hymnal 399

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song, transc, John L. Bell, 2008

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Luke 19:29-44 Pew Bible, p. 83 (N.T.)

 1 Peter 2:5-7 Pew Bible, p. 233 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Cornerstone” Pastor Wendy Boden

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**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.**

 Hymn 198: *Ride On! Ride On, in Majesty!* (all 4 verses)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

 **People**: **hear our prayers.**

**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 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.**

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

[The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please leave your gift or pledge
in the plate on your way into or out of worship.]

 Offertory: *Hosanna in the Highest!*  Robert Lau

 \**Doxology* Hymnal #606

**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.**

Public domain

 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 518: *Your Only Son (Lamb of God)*  (all verses)

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing!**

Leader:  The cross, **All:  We shall take it.**
  Leader:  The bread, **All:  We shall break it.**
  Leader:  The pain, **All:  We shall bear it.**
  Leader:  The joy, **All:  We shall share it.**
  Leader:  The Gospel, **All:  We shall live it.**  Leader:  The love, **All:  We shall give it.**
  Leader:  The light, **All:  We shall cherish it.**  Leader:  The darkness, **All:  God shall perish it.**  Leader:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Angela Smith
Greeter/Fellowship: Beth Bonde
Elder at the Door: Steve Shierry
Musicians: Tom Anderson, the Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Francine Long in memory of her mother, Rose Palma’s birthday.

**Care Notes:** “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6
Even though we aren’t all together for worship, we are still collecting prayer requests! Please email or leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149 if you won’t be present to fill out a prayer request slip.

Friends,
We have refreshed our list of people fighting cancer following Luminaria Sunday. Please make a point of sending an email, text, phone call, or filling out a blue prayer request and letting the people of Southminster know who you would like us to keep in prayer. All prayer requests are welcome. We want to be able to know who to talk to in order to follow up on all the people we pray for each week.

*New requests and updates are italicized in our prayer list.*

**Joys and Concerns** *The flowers today* *are given by Francine Long in memory of her mother, Rose Palma’s birthday.* **We give thanks to God for joys: (*Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”*** *- We give thanks for the life and witness of Francine’s mother, Rose
 - We are thankful for the college trip that Anna and Marta took together.* *- We rejoice with Jack Thorne in the birth of another great-grandson born on April Fool’s Day: Wade Grant Thorne, 7 lbs. and 11 oz.
 - For sightings of male goldfinches now in their truly bright yellow plumage – spring has arrived!***We pray for the whole world and our nation: (1 Timothy 2:1-2) “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”**
  - May we resist the temptation to hate and embrace the law of love.
- Lord, may you grant all our leaders and authorities wisdom and empathy as they carry out their duties.
 - We pray for moderates who feel pulled apart in our nation.
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. May those who use guns solve their issues and their pain. We ask for wise counsel, friends, and family to reach out to them in their sense of isolation. We ask for your light and peace for those who have lost loved ones to gun violence. May we and our leaders come together to end gun violence in our nation, as well as other forms of violence and hate. *On one day (Sunday, April 6) there were 80 shooting incidents in 30 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 20 people dead and 71 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this country, go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
 - We pray for the peace of the world. We pray for the people of Sudan, who are experiencing famine, *for Myanmar and Thailand after a devastating earthquake, and for all who are affected by raging wildfires in North and South Carolina and floods in many states*. Look with mercy on our planet and all people. **Blessed are those who mourn**: (**Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”
We lift up families and friends of…:** *- Del Meester’s friends who were in a car accident; one of their 4 children was killed.
 - Nanya, who passed away last week*  -Joan Koska, whose visitation and service was held here last Saturday. Send cards to: Tim and Tom Koska, 717 Stonebridge Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60490
**We continue to pray for the families and friends of:**
  - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, and for Paul, her husband
  - Gail Johnston, Andrea Schmidt’s mother
  - Franklin Keith Beeler, Angela Smith’s father
  - Caroline Linde, and for Ralph, her husband.
  - Those we name in our hearts and hold dear
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems**:
Please help us pray for your family and friends by updating the church office with the information of your loved ones. We support them and you in their journey.
 *- Floyd R., who has returned to his flat after being in the ICU. He has care support in his flat.* - Meagan S., whose numbers are bad; she needs a transplant
We continue to pray for Kerri, Margaret F., Ginny O., Cis R., Marta S., Shelayne, Kurt Parent, who is now in palliative care, and those we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges**:
 *- Lynn Ferino’s sister, Donna, who had successful surgery on Monday; prayers as she recuperates at home.
 - Edem, an exchange student who attended SPC years ago; her daughter Dorothy is struggling with malaria and needs grocery money.
 - Maddi, a high school freshman who is struggling with her parents’ divorce
  - Jack Thorne, recovering at DuPage Care Center after a fall
  - Nani, who is a senior who had a bad fall*  - Helen Shierry (Steve’s mom), now in a skilled nursing center with continuing health issues. We also pray for Steve and Heidi as they support her.
  - Alicia Rasnic, who is hospitalized. No visitors, please.
  - Jonathan Buckley, whose numbers are improving. May he continue to improve.
  - Our trans brothers and sisters and their families for peace and safety
 - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
**Prayers for our worshiping community and the Jeremiah Task Force** as we discern together God’s call on SPC for the 21st century.

**This week at Southminster:**  **Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday**
 **Children in the Triumphal Entry play** should be in the sanctuary by 8:45 a.m.
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship time** will follow the service.
 **Set up crafts in Fellowship Hall for** **Easter Party** during fellowship time
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Monday, April 14 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday, April 15
 Staff calendar meeting, 12:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 *Note: The April Session meeting has been rescheduled to April 22*** A.A. at 7:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, April 16
 eNotes go out
 Presbyterian Readers, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday
 Choir,** please come at 6:30 p.m. **Maundy Thursday service**, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary **Choir rehearsal** will follow the service
 **No Young Adults Video Club
Friday, April 18 – Good Friday
 Service participants,** please come at 6:30 p.m.
 **Good Friday service**, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary A.A., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, April 19** **Easter Party helpers**, please come at 8:00 a.m.
 **Bible Characters**, come at 8:45 a.m. **Easter Party,** 9:30 a.m. **Next** **Sunday,** **April 20 – Easter/the Day of Resurrection!**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship time** will follow the service.

If you are online, we’re glad to have you! Using the comments section on Facebook, you can say hello, ask for words of peace, or request prayers.
If you are present for worship, please wear a name tag; they are on the Mission shelf in the Narthex and on the shelf across from the church offices. Following the service, you are invited by the deacons to gather for a time offellowship in the narthex.

**Our “Comfort Zone”** – It is cold, flu, and Covid season, so we continue to have a “comfort zone” toward the back of the sanctuary. You may wear a mask, of course, if you so choose.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study,** **11:15 a.m.:** If you’re at church and wish to join us, get your coffee at fellowship time and then find Blair in the parlor/library.

You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden at 5:05 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday.

We continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15) on YouTube at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions, special services, and Sunday worship posted on our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/> or by going to our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. Watch here for coming opportunities to share your photos.

**Calling all musicians, vocal or instrumental!** If you would like to offer your musical gifts in worship, please talk to Tom Anderson on a Sunday when he is here, by text at 651-246-5029, or by emailing the office (admin@southminsterpc.org) and we’ll forward your message.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: Want in on the ground floor? We just started a study of Paul’s epistle to the Philippians, so join our adult Bible class this Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library to be in on this as the beginning. It is an epistle of joy, and who does not need a bit more joy in their life?

**Men of Southminster**: Be sure to have Saturday, April 26, at 9:00 a.m. on your calendar for our next get-together. Remember that we will meet in Fellowship Hall this time. Please bring some cash to cover the coffee and donut expenses.

**Youth**: **Pizzaless Games** this Sunday will be a workshop for our Talent Show acts, the last one before the weekend of the show, so please be there if you can. We meet in Fellowship Hall, 4-6:00 p.m. If you can’t be there, see the email from Blair N. with the skit and infomercial information and contribute your ideas through the email thread.

**Talent Show is coming**!  Southminster’s annual evening of fun, entertainment, and laughter is coming on Sunday, April 27. This year is special because the spaghetti dinner is returning!!!! Yeah!!! Big difference, though—we will do the dinner and show together in Fellowship Hall. Think dinner theatre. Got an act? Please sign up in the Narthex. Gonna be in the audience? Please sign up on the “attendees” sheet in the Narthex, so we know how much food to make. Cost of admission: adults-$10; children-$5; and children under 4-free. This event supports the Youth Mission Team that is heading to the Rosebud Reservation of the Lakota people in June for a week of workcamp.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

**Please join us for worship services during Holy Week**:
Thursday, April 17 – **Maundy Thursday**– worship service with communion at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 18 – **Good Friday: “Seven Last Words from the Cross”** – worship service
 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 20 – **Easter/The Resurrection of the Lord**! Worship with us at 9:30 a.m.

If you have signed up for **Easter flowers**, be sure to make your checks to SPC with “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Your Easter flowers may be taken home after worship on April 20. If not claimed after the service on Easter, they need to be picked up on Monday, April 21, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at church. If you are unable to retrieve your flowers, please make arrangements with a friend to get them for you. It is appreciated!

The **flower chart for the remainder of 2025** will be posted on Easter. Please sign up in person or email Sarah Allen at sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com with your choice of flower dates and honoree. Flowers remain $35.00. Thanks for your support of the Flower Ministry at Southminster.

 **The annual Easter Party – Saturday, April 19!**Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join the fun on Easter Saturday. All are welcome to this family friendly Easter Party, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 19. The party begins with hands-on crafts and an interactive, walk-through Easter Story. We finish the morning with a gigantic Easter egg hunt. The fun goes on rain or shine, and no reservations are needed. Get the word out – all are invited!

We also need volunteers at the party! If you are interested, speak with Chris Kozich. And you can help us today after worship as we set up the craft stations in Fellowship Hall.
 **From the Mission Ministry**
March Madness and **March Mission Madness** for 2025 are history! How did your brackets) do? The winners of Southminster’s March Mission Madness will be officially announced the Sunday after Easter.
If you haven’t yet contributed your $15 per bracket (or more, if you feel like it!), please write a check to Southminster ***and add your bracket name(s) on the memo line*** so our treasurer can reconcile the contributions.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**: For over seventy years, Presbyterians have participated in One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent, starting on the first Sunday in Lent (March 9) and culminating on Easter Sunday (April 20). This year’s theme is “Repairing the Breach”.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. These all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works to provide relief to those affected by natural or manmade disasters. The Presbyterian Hunger Program helps to provide food for the hungry. Self-Development of People helps provide resources to communities working to cast of the bonds of poverty and oppression.

You will find envelopes in the sanctuary, or you may donate at any time by designating OGHS on your check. Please give generously. You may give through Easter Sunday; the offering will be dedicated the following Sunday.

**Donate your gently-used clothing for Repeat Boutique!**

During the entire month of April there will be a large box in the coat room in which you may
place your donations of gently used clothing for Repeat Boutique. This shop serves people
referred by non-profit organizations —World Relief, PADS, Peoples Resource Center, as well
as other charitable organizations in DuPage County—who need financial help clothing themselves and their families. Eligible persons may shop every three months for a year at no cost to themselves. Children’s clothing is especially needed. Boys and men’s clothing, especially men’s pants, are needed.

 **“Paving the Way”**
The Paving the Way committed funds (donations and 2025 pledges) total is $212,271 as of March 27, 2025. If we include the $9,850 in future year pledges, the grand total is $222,121.

A construction contractor was chosen during a special Session meeting on March 25. Additional preliminary details of the construction work are in the April *Dialog*, which went out on April 2.

The donation request campaign ended on Sunday, March 2, and we ask that the 2025 pledges be paid as soon as possible. Project and financial updates will be on the poster in the narthex, in the weekly eNotes, and in the monthly *Dialog*.

If you have any financial questions, please contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net. Project construction questions should be directed to Steve Kozich at ee99530@yahoo.com.

***And on the subject of parking…***

**Handicap Accessible parking**

If you need to use a handicap accessible space in the traffic circle on a Sunday and find the spaces all full and no valet parker, **please double park your car by the entrance doors and bring the keys to Lanny**. He will find someone to move your car and return your keys after it’s moved.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The April book is *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*by Marianne Cronin.

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting through this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

For more information about the Readers, contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net.

**Presbyterian Women’s April meeting – note the date change!**The April meeting of PW is scheduled for ***Saturday, April 26*** *(please note change in day: Saturday instead of Friday)* at 9:30 a.m. in the McHenry Parlor/Library. April’s program is on Oral Health and will be presented by Roxane Johnson. This April meeting has been scheduled on a Saturday in hopes that the women of Southminster who work during the week will be able to join us.

Our final meeting for the program year is our annual **Spring Luncheon** at Reserve 22 on Friday, May 16, at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the PW bulletin board. The deadline to sign up is Thursday, May 1.

All women are invited to the meeting and the Spring Luncheon.

**Jubilee Bucks**Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks gift cards, we have earned $700.48 in “free” money for Southminster so far this year.
Your next opportunity to order Jubilee Bucks will be May 4.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
This is the 50th year People’s Resource Center is distributing food to our neighbors in DuPage County! That first year, bags of groceries were shared from a house with 125 families. This past year, groceries were provided over 63,000 times! Our weekly trunkful of groceries from Southminster is truly appreciated! Not only does PRC distribute food, they also assist people with other needs - ELL (English Language Learner) classes, job assistance, social work, computer classes and repair, gas cards, rental assistance, tutoring, art classes, and more. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated!

**Caring for you!**Our **Congregational Care Committee** is ready to assist in time of need. If you need assistance from the Congregational Care Ministry or Helping Hands from April 9 to May 13, call Deacon Elise Henkels (630-740-0473). You may call Pastor Wendy Boden on her cell or home phone (if she has shared the numbers with you) or leave a message for her at the church office: 630-469-9149. You may email Wendy at wendy@southminsterpc.org. (Please note that she can only read email when she is in the office.) You may also call your deacon if you need help from the church. **Regular Office Schedule: The church office is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays.**Barb’s regular schedule is to be in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. while her son attends his day program on those days. Mondays and Wednesdays she works from home.

Grace and peace to you! Remember that we love God, neighbor, and one another. Our address is 680 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 if you would like to set up an online account with your bank or mail in your pledge. Online giving through Vanco is also now an option –for details contact Ron Birchall.

**Bearing Fruit – April 13, 2025**

**“Being There”**

This year Passover starts at sundown on Saturday, April 12. Depending on family and communal custom, Passover lasts seven or eight days. In Israel and for most Reform Jews worldwide, Passover is seven days, but for many other Jews, it is eight days. Our local temple celebrates for eight days.

At tables around the world, Jews will hear the phrase from Deuteronomy 5:15:
"Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.” This is a biblical expression explicitly referring to God's power and strength. It describes God's active and decisive intervention in human events, often associated with deliverance and protection. The "outstretched arm" symbolizes God's active and forceful involvement, while the "mighty hand" emphasizes his strength and authority.

It is noteworthy that while Jews worldwide will be celebrating Passover, Christians, including the Orthodox tradition, will be celebrating Holy Week at the same time. These observances don’t always coincide. We, both Jews and Christians, celebrate God's mighty acts by refreshing our memories.

Have you ever rehearsed or practiced for a big event? Think wedding, play, or presentation. We do that so that when the time comes, we get it right! Christians rehearse, practice, or retell the story of God’s encounter with people so that it becomes part of us. With the gospels, in particular, we practice, rehearse, and retell the story of Jesus each year to get it right **in** us. The story is to become part of us.

When we reenact the entrance in Jerusalem, we are provoked to ask the question, “Is Jesus truly Lord of my Life?” When we reenact Maundy Thursday, we remember the great commandment that Jesus gave us, his followers, to “love one another.” On Maundy Thursday, we may ask, “Do I truly love my fellow Christians?” On Good Friday, when we hear the last seven words of Christ, we may ask, “What wondrous love is this?”

During Holy Week – Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and indeed Easter – we, too, remember that God brought us out of sin and death with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm on the cross and with an empty tomb.

By attending worship, engaging in the story of Christ’s love, and bearing witness to God’s mighty acts, we bear the fruit of God’s love in the world.