**Call To Worship** (Congregation reads the **bold.**)

Today, we join Jesus in the final ascent to Jerusalem, knowing the depths we will descend on our journey through Holy Week.

**Open the gates of righteousness, that we may come worship God!**

We join the disciples in declaring that Jesus, riding on a donkey, is our Ruler, the One who will bring peace and salvation for all.

**Open the gates of peace, that we may come worship God!**

We join with the bystanders who questioned and wondered who this Jesus really is, who feared the consequences of angering the powers that be.

**Open the gates of truth, that we may come worship God!**

The journey through Holy Week brings us face-to-face with the stark reality of sin and God’s faithfulness to save.

**Open the gates of salvation, that we may come to worship God whose steadfast love never fails!**

**Opening Prayer**

With great joy we welcome you, Lord Jesus! The journey has been long and we have longed to enter the Holy City. You come into our hearts and our lives, humbly, patiently, encouraging us to learn and grow, to embark on journeys of hope and healing. Open our hearts today to hear your words, as we sing praise to you. Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord’s Name. AMEN.

Please announce the Hymn of Praise “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #278

**Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 21:1-11 (CEB)

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away. Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, *Say to Daughter Zion,* “*Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.*” The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “*Hosanna* to the Son of David! *Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna* in the highest!” And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked. The crowds answered, “It’s the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The words of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**