## The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



Welcome to our 10:15am Worship Service In-Person & Streaming Online

+ + +

Sunday, March 24, 2024 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Palm/Passion Sunday

## Welcome

May God's loving presence be very real to you, and may you receive strength and guidance today That will enable you to handle life's challenges.



#### **Children's Bulletins**

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

#### Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul. (Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table).

#### Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

#### **Junior Worship**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

#### Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

#### Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

#### **Water Fountains**

Water fountains are located on both the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

#### **Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes**

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

#### **Sunday Worship**

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

#### **Youth Group**

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

#### Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

#### **Prayer and Care**

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

#### Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

#### More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the *Blue Visitor Table* in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

{Symbols used in this bulletin: \*= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♬# = Blue Hymnal Page}

#### Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on Our YouTube Channe

Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/ - Live or Watch & Listen Later

Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org







# ORDER FOR WORSHIP We Gather

We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God, and provide for one another our love, support, and care.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

{If you have not already done so, please sign and pass the pew welcome pad to the person next to you.}

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP <sup>®</sup> (Unison)

Gracious God, we come before you with good intentions but our lives are full of sorrow and distress. In our suffering, we cry out to you. From the misery of rejection and failure and brokenness, we turn to you. In humility, we empty ourselves of the problems that so often overwhelm, that we might see the Christ. Draw us near the cross to experience the confident witness of our Savior, find the strength to live as forgiving people, and catch a vision that looks beyond our own situation to the greater needs of our sisters and brothers. Amen.

**ORGAN PRELUDE** 

"The Gates of Jerusalem"

original by David Paxton

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Palms"

Jean-Baptiste Fauré; tr. Theofore T. Barker Public Domain

#### \*Invocation

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP <sup>®</sup>

Leader: This is a day of joyous welcome.

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

People: Jesus rides into the tumult of our times.

We welcome Christ with waving branches.

Leader: Our leader comes humbly, riding a donkey.

Give thanks for God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: Jesus rides into the tumult of our times.

Let us joyously enter into the light God offers.

## \*Prayer for Palm Sunday ①

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray...

People: Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer,

turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that united with Christ and all the faithful we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in

glory for ever.

ALL: Amen.

## \*Proclamation of Scripture

Gospel Lesson (The Palms): Mark 11:1-11

## \*Blessing of Palms ①

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray...

ALL: O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a

week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. In these events of defeat and victory, you have sealed the closeness of death and resurrection, of humiliation and exaltation. We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come and that Christ will come

again. Amen! Come, Christ Jesus!

## We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

## \*Call to Confession <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

Do not hesitate to face your brokenness. Be bold to confess your fears. The cross is not a pleasant gathering place but a place where we can find strength. Christ's loving witness cannot be matched, but it will empower all who are open to its transforming power. Come to experience the grace of God.

## \*CONFESSION OF SIN <sup>2</sup> (Unison)

Lord God, we confess that we are as fickle as the crowds in Jerusalem. When everything seems to be going well, we join the hosanna chorus, but in times of weariness or rebellion, praise can turn to insult. We hide our faith when it is under attack and link ourselves with the scoffers. When there is opportunity to speak a good word for Jesus Christ, we are silent. Our church lifts an uncertain word before the world, for we, its members, have not been faithful. We need your forgiving love today, O God, more than ever. Hear our prayer! Amen.

#### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

#### \*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

NCH #750
Traditional 6<sup>th</sup> Century

Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

## \*Assurance of Pardon <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

God answers us and offers salvation. In the mystery of God, One came among us, fully human yet fully divine, to lead us to the throne of grace. Though in the form of God, Jesus emptied himself, taking a slave's role in humble service to humanity. This was for our sakes, that we might bend our knees before God in humility and trust. We are saved in God's steadfast love! **Amen.** 

\*Lenten Verse adapted from Psalm 25 Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

People: All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness!

Michael Joncas

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

{please be seated}

#### We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings.

We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God."

Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

#### PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Prophecy: Isaiah 50:4-11

New Testament Letter to the Church of Philippi from Paul: Philippians 2:5-13

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News) Lesson: Mark 14:1 – 15:47)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" W&R #106

MINI-MESSAGE

{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship, or on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Jesus Loves Me"

NCH #327 William B. Bradbury

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

**SERMON** 

## We Respond with Thanks

We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped, we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by re-affirming our faith in God, praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

## In Memory of

<u>Samuel D. Blatt</u> March 6, 1933 -- March 14, 2024

Disciple of Christ and

Member of the Family of the
United Church of Christ of Robesonia

{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers and show our love, support, and care for this member of our family of UCC of Robesonia}.

#### GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of

the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

## **SENTENCES** (Leader)

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)** {From Paul's letter to the Romans}

We believe that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING (Leader)

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.** 

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

{Silent Prayers}

## **SENTENCES** (Leader)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Unison)

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be counted, awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.

By your Holy Spirit,

lead us in faithfulness all our days.

When we have served you in our generation,
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,
having the testimony of a good conscience,
in the communion of your holy church,
in the confidence of a certain faith,
in the comfort of a saving hope,
in favor with you, our God,
and at perfect peace with the world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

Leader:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

The above is reprinted with permission from the Order for Thanksgiving for One Who Has Died and the Order for Committal from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship (1986) United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership

#### SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

W&R #484 One License #A-728042

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

#### **OFFERTORY INVITATION** <sup>2</sup>

Leader: In joyous thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources to announce

God's healing grace to the world.

People: It is our privilege to participate in God's wonderful works to humankind, to

share the steadfast love that is saving us, and to offer life to those who are

perishing.

#### RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org** (<u>Click Here</u>), or you may mail your offering to <u>United Church of Christ of Robesonia</u>; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Hosanna"

by Marie Pooler

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*Offertory Response

"Doxology"

♪ Red #551

George Bourgeois; Public Domain

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.

## \*Offertory Prayer <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

Gracious God, what you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes. Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble service. We pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray....

## \*LORD'S PRAYER (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.

## We Are Sent Out

In response to God's love and grace, we go out into the world to share God's Good News through our words and actions.

## \*Commission <sup>2</sup>

Leader: God has given us light.

We are sent into the world to share that light.

People: This is God's doing; marvelous in our eyes.

We will carry the light of Christ to the world.

Leader: Give thanks for God's reign among us.

Praise God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

People: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

We trust in God and seek to serve in Christ's name.

ALL: Amen.

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ Red #558
Public Domain

\*SENDING HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

□ Blue #300 One License #A-728042

{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us, as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}

#### **Postlude**

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest Password (for both): iamheretoserve

## The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

1) God welcomes us and invites us

(2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him

(3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace

(4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace

(5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon

(6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer

(7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure

(8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

① Reprinted with permission from The New Century Hymnal of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 Led By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

 Reprinted with permission from Sundays and Seasons. (2023). Augsburg Fortress.
 Reprinted with permission from the Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States. and/or The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. (1985) New York: United Church Press.

Seprinted with permission from Sourcebook of Worship Services
scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
Reprinted with permission from Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ. (2013).

© Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.
© Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press

® Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 9 Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 ® The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

One License is our Church Copyright License #A-728042,, which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.

Cartoons are reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com. (2023).



## Staff & Leadership

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary (Interim): Terry Pastor Consistory President: George McLain Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

## **About Today**

**Church Season: Lent** - 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

#### Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

**Purple** - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

#### This Sunday, March 24, 2024, Lectionary Readings for Palm/Passion Sunday, the Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 *or* John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-19; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47

or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

#### Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

#### Psalm 118

The is an OT song of thanksgiving, used by an individual within the temple to give praise and thanks to God for God's deliverance in times of distress. This is one of the "Egyptian Hallel" praise psalms (Psalms 113-114 commonly sung before the Passover meal, and Psalms 115-118 sung afterwards). This psalm lifts up images of the Holy City of God and the gates by which the righteous will enter. "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD."

#### The Letter of Paul to the Philippians

This epistle (letter) (NT) was written by the Apostle Paul from prison in the 60s A.D. Paul and Timothy are sending this letter to the church in Philippi, thanking and rejoicing with them for their steadfast faithfulness, prayers, and support, cautioning them of missionaries who focus on physical wants and needs, and encouraging them to stay true and united to his and Timothy's teachings and example. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

#### The Gospel According to Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

## Next Sunday, March 31, 2024, Lectionary Reading for Easter

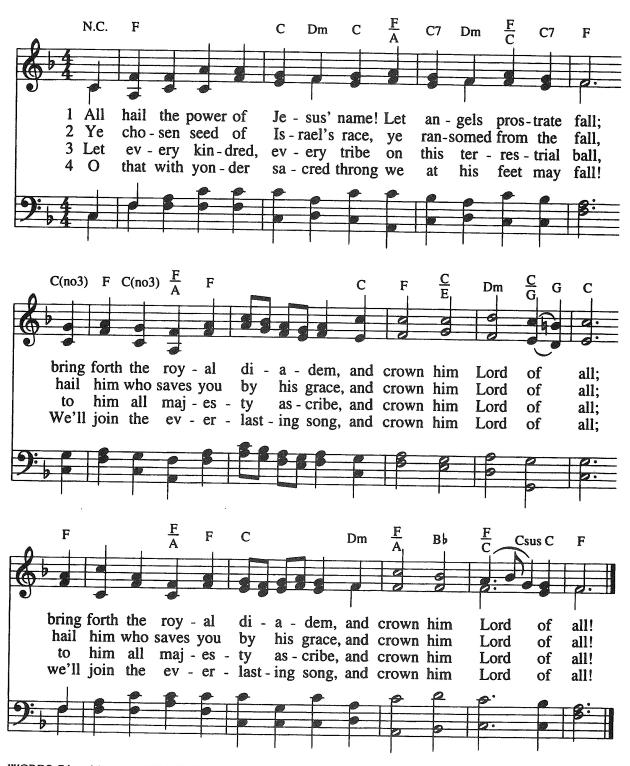
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

## The Palms



Public Domain

## All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! 106



WORDS: Edward Perronet (1726-1792); adapt. John Rippon (1751-1836) MUSIC: Oliver Holden (1765-1844)

CORONATION 8.6.8.6.8.6.

## 300 All Glory, Laud and Honor

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel! John 12:13



TEXT: Theodulph of Orleans; translated by John M. Neale MUSIC: Melchior Teschner

7.6.7.6.D.