





**Upper St. Croix Parish**  
**Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls**  
**April 13th, 2025**  
**Church Love Month**  
**Passion/Palm Sunday**

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\*Please stand if you are able.

**\*PRELUDE**                      **Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

***“Peace be With You”***

*(Waive your hands at one another)*

***We Celebrate New Life in Christ***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP    Responsive**

This is the day which God has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Blessed be the one who enters in the name of God!**

**We bless you from the house of God.**

The Sovereign One is God,  
who has caused light to shine upon us.

**You are our Maker; we will give thanks to you.**

**You are our Sustainer; we will extol you.**

O give thanks to God, for God is good;

Our Creator’s steadfast love endures forever.

**Open to us the gates of righteousness,  
that we may enter and give thanks to God. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATING HYMN**        *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*  
**UMH 278 (vs. 1 & 2)**

**OPENING PRAYER    Unison**

**Open our minds to the mind of Christ. Loosen our tongues to share what Christ is teaching us. Empty us of false pride and arrogant pretension, so we can join the humble servant on a donkey in our ministry among the earth’s multitudes. We are ready to hear you, saving God, and to respond to your steadfast love. Amen!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)**

***Proclamation of God’s Word***

**\*THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 19:28-40**

(NRSV, p. 83 in the NT, and p.885-886 in the Living Bible)

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

**SERMON**

***“From Palms to Passion”***

**Rev. Jenny Lee**

***We Respond to God’s Word***

**RESPONDING PRAYER    Unison**

Gracious and Loving God, as we wave our palms in praise, help us also to open our hands in surrender. Too often, we hold tightly to our own expectations, forgetting that true victory comes through humility, not power. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem not with might but with mercy, remind us that we are not the main event—we are carriers of Christ. In this Holy Week, may our faith remain steadfast, even when the path turns from parade to passion. Give us courage to follow Jesus to the cross, trusting that resurrection is on the other side. Forgive us when we turn away, and gently turn us back to You. Let our palms, once clenched in control or burdened with fear, be lifted in worship, open in love, and ready to serve. In the name of the One who came to save us—Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*After each prayer request:*

*Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,*

***All: Hear our Prayer.***

**PRAYER SONG**

**UMH 487**

*This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**



## APRIL CHURCH MISSIONS

### ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

#### INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



#### LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items:  
eggs, milk,  
mayonnaise, coffee,  
tea, peanut butter,  
crackers, cookies.  
Personal  
Products for men &  
women.

We will be collecting  
supplies for the  
church in April.  
Thank you for your  
support!



Suggested/Needed Items:  
-Styrofoam coffee cups 8 1/2oz (no large ones)  
-Plastic drink cups 9oz  
-Small luncheon paper plates  
-Gallon plastic bags with twist ties  
-Furnace filters 20x16 (lasting 3 months or longer)

### GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

#### BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ...  
Every Sunday  
Is MAC 'N CHEESE  
SUNDAY!  
Supporting the Salvation  
Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack  
Program"



#### APRIL SHOWERS We will be collecting supplies for the church in April.

Supply Needs: Please  
check the Mission Board and the April  
newsletter for a detailed list of items  
needed. Thank you for your ongoing  
support of our monthly missions.



### ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

#### Food Shelf

(Communion  
Sunday)



#### Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go  
to support the local  
community with  
SCF Police  
vouchers for  
homeless lodging.



Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People / Rev. Jenny Lee

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	Paulie Kratchmer
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>



### Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Cheryl Olson
Cleaning	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Sunday School	Colleen Adams-Schween

### St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Kathy Gionis
Usher(s)	Lynn Hanson
Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis
Fellowship	Admin Members

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Peggy Frederickson 4/13  
Olivia McNally 4/14  
Judy Lien 4/16  
Toni Koons 4/16  
Allison Reid 4/17  
Suzi Dammann 4/19





## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday only at 9:00 am.**
- 2) The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.  
Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>  
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,  
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at [upperstcroixparish.org](http://upperstcroixparish.org) under Sermons!
- 4) Sunday's video may be uploaded on late Sundays!  
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 5) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today: Passion/ Palm Sunday. God bless you!

## Worship Service Schedule

4/13:	9:00 am	Grantsburg with Zoom (9:10 am, Children's Time)
	10:00 am	Atlas (10:15 am, Sunday School)
	11:15 am	St. Croix Falls
4/15:	6:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (G)
4/16:	11:00 am	Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom
	5:00 -6:00 pm	Go Fish for K-Up to Youth (G)
4/17	4:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service at SCF
4/18:	1:30 pm	Ad Council Meeting (A)
	5:30 pm	Good Friday Service at Central-G

## Upcoming Events & News

### \*April: Church Love Month

- 4/20: Easter Sunday (Sharing of Life-plants & seeds)
- 4/26: Spring Sale and Lunch at Grantsburg-Central
- 4/22-5/5: Pastor Jenny's vacation from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>
- 5/2-5/4: Youth Retreat (questions to Youth Director Shayna Schmid)
- 5/5-5/6: Provisional elder workshop at Pine Lake Camp
- 5/11: Communion/Mother's Day

## Next Sunday (April 20th):

### Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Scripture Reading	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Fellowship	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Counter	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
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Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis
Fellowship	Admin Members

**Breakthrough Prayers:** Please pray for: Georgeanne Koons (surgery, 4/9), Ken Olson (recovery), Ron Aldorfer (healing & strength), Sally Aldorfer (self-care), Lynn Hanson (healing), Rachel & Renee Tooze (recovery), Shea Wojtowicz (healing), Sanci and Rifle Harshman (healing), Jameson Koser (healing), Jim Loomis (healing), LeAnn Sylvester (healing), those struggling with illness and/or addiction, undocumented immigrants, for the U.S.A, for Myanmar (earthquake) and the world (God's peace).



**Praise the Lord in gratitude and joy:** Lynn Hanson (birth grandchild), Kayleen Branstad (celebration for new granddaughter), Grantsburg Food Shelf (providing hams for two Thursdays), Betty Doolittle (received good-care)

***"This kind can come out only by prayer." (Mark 9:29)***





April 13th, 2025  
Luke 19:28-40

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.  
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



## **“From Palms to Passion”**

I want to start something funny that I found an internet site: Did you hear about the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem? Well, he wasn't seen around Jesus the next day because he went back into town alone. He strutted in, expecting cheers and palm branches again. But no one noticed. He looked around and said, “What happened? Yesterday I was famous!”

A wise old goat said, “It's not about you, buddy. It's about who you were carrying.”

This simple, funny story reminds us that in church ministry, we must ask ourselves: Who are we carrying? Are we trying to be the main event, or are we pointing to Jesus? Whatever we do, let's not forget—we are carriers of Christ, like that donkey. Be humble, be patient, and stay surrendered.

Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! (Let's waive the palms!)

We hear these words echo through the streets of Jerusalem as Jesus enters riding on a colt. Cloaks are laid down. Branches are waved. The people are electric with hope and expectation. This is Palm Sunday. It is both a parade and a protest—a celebration and a confrontation.

Today, let's pause and look closely—not just at the palm branches, but also at our own palms.

What are we holding? What are we offering? What do we expect from Jesus as He rides into the city and into our lives?

The Gospel of Luke doesn't mention palms specifically, but we know from the other Gospels that they were there. Palms were a sign of victory and peace. In Jewish tradition, palm branches were waved during the Feast of Tabernacles—a joyful celebration remembering the Israelites' departure from slavery in Egypt. It was a festival of victory and salvation. Palm branches were used as a symbol of triumph, freedom, and the joy of God's deliverance.

So, as Jesus rides into Jerusalem, the crowd waves palms as if to say: “Here comes the one who will save us! Here comes the king we've been waiting for!” They were right to rejoice. But we know something they didn't: this King does not ride in on a war horse, but a humble colt. He doesn't come to overthrow Rome, but to overthrow the power of sin and death. They want a sword; He brings a cross. They want liberation by might; He offers salvation through sacrifice.

Think of your hands—your palms. What are you holding today? We wave our palms in worship, but are they open in surrender?

During Lent, we studied *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs. She writes: “Mary of Bethany had anointed Jesus with her palms; the crowd had adored Him with their palms. Now the guards abused Him with their palms” (p. 125).



Palms—what a powerful image. They can carry a message of victory, or they can be used to reject the very one who brings it.

Today is called Palm and Passion Sunday. Yet often, we focus mostly on the “Palm” part and not enough on the “Passion.” But both are deeply significant. They represent two sides of the same story—just like the two sides of our hands: the palm and the back. It reflects the life of Christ—welcomed with glory, yet sent to die; praised as the Messiah, yet rejected by the crowds. He was crucified, and yet He rose again.

Palm and Passion Sunday also mirrors the lives of us as believers. We may welcome Jesus with joy and praise, and yet at times, we might turn away or betray Him—only to return again, flipping our palms back in surrender.

If you imagine the gestures of the hands—open palms to welcome, the back of the hand to push away—it helps bring this truth into focus. Our journey of faith may include both suffering and joy, both faithfulness and failure. And yet, in all of it, we are invited to return—to raise our palms once again—and follow the Savior who was both crucified and risen for us.

Sometimes, our palms are clenched with control—holding tightly to expectations, to fear, to the way we think things should be. Sometimes, our palms are weighed down—burdened with grief, guilt, or unanswered prayers. But Jesus invites us to open them. To lay down our cloaks, our branches, our very selves.

The people shouted with joy as Jesus entered Jerusalem, but many of them would fall silent—or even cry out “Crucify! Crucify!”—just days later. Their expectations didn’t match His mission.

Are we willing to keep our palms open, even when Jesus doesn’t meet our expectations?

When the Pharisees tried to hush the crowd, Jesus said, “If these were silent, the stones would shout out.” It’s as if creation itself knows what’s happening: the King is coming—not just to visit the city, but to redeem the world.

Can we be part of that chorus? Can our praise persist—even through confusion? Even through the shadows of Holy Week? Today is the turning point. The parade leads to the Passion. The waving palms give way to a wooden cross. But this is how love wins. This is how peace comes—not through power, but through a suffering servant.

Sometimes we feel strong in our faith. But we must remember the warning from the Apostle Paul: “If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

As we walk through this Holy Week, let us pray as Jesus asked His disciples to pray in Gethsemane. Let’s press our palms together in prayer. Hold them tightly all week.

Then, on Easter morning—let us wave our palms in praise.  
Let us lift our hands in surrender.  
Let us lay down whatever we’ve been clinging to.

And let us walk with Jesus—not just into the city, but all the way to the cross... and into the light of resurrection.

Thanks be to God. Amen.