

Online and Household Liturgy, April 5

Call to Worship – Zechariah 9 and John 12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

*Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

*On that day the LORD their God will save them,
as the flock of his people;
for like the jewels of a crown
they shall shine on his land.*

Centuries later:

The large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ *“Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”*

Confession of Faith – Apostles Creed

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We 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.**

Scripture Reading:

John 13:1-17 (ESV)

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Sermon

"The God Who Serves Us"

Confession and Good News of the Gospel—Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.

Brothers and sisters, in Christ we are forgiven and made well.

Thanks be to God!

Song: Hallelujah, What a Savior!

Announcements and Benediction

Household Time of Prayer

Instructions: after the livestream is finished, select one person in the group to be the person identified as “celebrant.” He or she will be the one reading the print that is not bold. Everyone else is invited to join in where the print is bold.

Celebrant: Our God understands our grief. He gives to us words to help us direct our faces to him in the midst of suffering. Let us join with God’s people throughout the ages in praying these words of lament.

From Psalm 130

Out of the depths we cry to you, O LORD!

² **O Lord, hear our voices!**

**Let your ears be attentive
to the sound of our pleas for mercy!**

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.**

⁵ We wait for the LORD, our souls wait,
and in his word we hope;

⁶ **our souls wait for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸ **And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.**

Presenting Our Requests to God

Lord, God who reigns over all things, we cry out to you, and we wait for you. Please hear us as we call. Do not be far from us. Lord, please pay attention to the suffering of the people in this world, people you have created in your image. Please turn the tide of this sickness that is currently a plague upon our world. Please slow the spread of this virus, so that fewer and fewer will catch it. Please care for those who are sick. Give wisdom and competence to those who right now are seeking to devise treatment for this disease—spare the lives of many who are in danger right now. Please give success to those who are pursuing a vaccine, so that we might be able once again to meet together with others without fear.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, please look with compassion on the many facing great financial need. Many of us are overwhelmed as we hear the news of millions in our country suddenly losing their jobs and of

millions more whose jobs are in danger. We think of people in our congregations who are without work. And Father, we know that there are also many others in financial peril, experiencing an enormous amount of fear and anxiety. Lord, you see the poor, the vulnerable, the suffering. Please spare this world from the economic collapse before us. Please protect the vulnerable. Please provide wisdom to leaders. Grant them the ability to make decisions that will enable people to keep or find work. Please provide for those in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we need your wisdom, your Spirit filling us, your church. Please grant to us the ability to understand your calling upon us in this time. Fill us with a confidence in your care and your love. Enable us to truly love others as Christ has loved us. Help us to show the beauty of Jesus and the hope of the gospel to all you place along our path.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We continue to pray for those in our congregations who are sick, and those in our congregation who are grieving. We also think of those in our congregations who are in the medical profession. We think in Redemption of Rebecca Barbo and Debi Flores, and in Trinity of Tom Lee and Chris Girgis, and many others in our two congregations. Father, we pray that you would grant to them wisdom, courage, and the ability to care well for everyone they are called to serve. Please protect them and their families from sickness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we long to be together again. And so we ask that you would bring about a time soon when it becomes safe and wise for us to meet with each other. Please grant to us the ability to see each other face to face, that we might strengthen and encourage each other.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guided by your Son, we conclude with the words he taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, strengthened by the knowledge that our loving God reigns over all, go now in peace.

To love and serve the Lord.

Amen