

PALM SUNDAY Order of Worship
Sunday, March 5, 2020

TEXTS: Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 • Matthew 21:1–11 • Philippians 2:1–11

The Call to Worship (LEADER)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Open to us the gates of righteousness,
that we may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

We thank you that you have answered us
and have become our salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.

You are our God, and we will give thanks to you;
you are our God; we will extol you.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

– Ps. 118: 1, 19-29

SONG: Salvation Belongs to our God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utzy78lt90A>

SCRIPTURE READING (Group Member)

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, let us demonstrate joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Let us do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than ourselves. Let each of us look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others. Let us have this mind among ourselves, which is ours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,¹ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – *Phil 2:1-11*

PRAYER (GROUP MEMBER)

Lord, our God, you came to us, *Matt. 21:5*
humble, in the form of a slave, *Phil. 2:7*
to free us from the weight of sin and death.
Jesus' suffering has released us.
Our sins are forgiven.
We rejoice in the name of the one who is exalted *Phil. 2:9*
beyond what we can comprehend:
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SONG: All Hail The Power of Jesus Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sjL47LQeI>

SCRIPTURE READING (GROUP MEMBER)

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt,^[a] the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."
– *Matthew 21: 1-11*

SONG: All to Us <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBWgP7CvvWk>

RESPONSIVE PRAYER (LEADER)

[Instructions: Announce that the leader will pray a sentence at a time, and when he/she pauses, the congregant will say "God of mercy, hear our prayer."]

Let us pray together.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

**We pray in gratitude for a Savior who comes to us humbly,
riding a donkey and proclaiming a message of peace.**

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church, for our world and all its creatures, and for all people in need.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that Christians, as his disciples, hear and share the word of God.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that all nations receive the words of the king of peace.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That all leaders of church and of state, love humble service over empty power.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That we all live with gratitude for the gifts of nourishment, friendship, family, trust, patience, and hope.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That those who look to the cross will draw strength from the name that is above every other name.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That we might live with gratitude for those who came before us, whose faith and witness have nourished our own.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That all who mourn today will be comforted, and that we, on the day of the Lord's coming, will be ready and filled with joy.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, you show us the way to freedom through the gentle obedience of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

SONG: Jesus Is Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVs8GFzqawY>

TO THINK ABOUT

Have you thought much about what it means to have the mind of Christ – how that plays out in how we live? Is there a difference between having the mind of Christ and the heart of Christ? There's a certain symmetry, isn't there, in the fact that collectively, as the church, we are the body of Christ, and individually we are to have the mind of Christ? We are to be Christ through and through, aren't we?

The mind of Christ is a mind of compassion, of course – of love and service and sacrifice. How does it make you feel, physically, to be so utterly cared for? How do we help others know and feel that care?

COMMUNION

Prayer / Partake of the Bread

Prayer / Partake of the Cup

SONG: Surround Us Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXFUCe4S3BY>

**Reminder of our congregation's needs for servants in ministries
and of its need for financial support**

[REQUEST SPECIFIC PRAYER NEEDS FROM GROUP MEMBERS]

PRAYER (Worded by leader or a group member)

You are our God, – Ps. 118:28-29
You have made your light to shine upon us
and we will give thanks to you;
your steadfast love endures forever!

[Insert prayers here for the hurting, hopeless, ailing, lonely and oppressed; for those who have contracted the coronavirus – ESPECIALLY THOSE OF OUR NUMBER HERE AT ARLINGTON – and for those healthcare workers and first responders giving care; for our nation's and communities' leaders as they make difficult choices; for our congregation in this time of physical separation and for our elders and ministers and ministry leaders; for those of our congregation who have specific needs (mention specific requests); and for calm and peace for us all, knowing that God is in control.]

Let the same mind be in us that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. – Phil. 2:5-11
Let us look not to rewards and recognition for our good deeds.
Let us do unto others what will nurture God's will for them.
Let us listen to the word of the Lord, believe it, and do it.
Amen.

SONG: The Battle Belongs to Our God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI8VX6q8nEs>

GROUP MEMBERS SHARE GOOD NEWS

CLOSING BLESSING (LEADER)

Go in peace, assured of God's presence with you,
with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide,
and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit. Amen