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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

On Sunday, April 5, Palm/Passion Sunday we share together Holy Communion in our online interactive worship.

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice -- perhaps grape or cranberry -- or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup.

Thank you for your preparation.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Let the Whole Creation Cry Alleluia!"

**by Robert Williams
arranged by Penny Rodriguez**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week

Palms

Prayer requests

CALL TO WORSHIP (Zech. 9:9 *The Message*)

"Shout and cheer, Daughter Zion!

Raise the roof, Daughter Jerusalem!

Your king is coming! A good king who makes all things right,
a humble king riding a donkey, a mere colt of a donkey.

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

Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We praise you, O God, for the way you save the world through Jesus Christ. Today Jesus comes into Jerusalem. Everyone is happy, and calls him king. They spread their clothes and palm branches before him. Let these branches remind us that he is our king. We will carry the branches, and we will follow him to the cross and to the new life we have in Jesus. Thank you, God for your love and your care. Amen.

HYMN 197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We can tell God we are sorry for our sins, and for all the sins of all people. We can tell God because we know that God loves us and has more mercy and grace that we can imagine. Let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, You are a great and awesome God. Today we come to you with our prayer of confession. We are sorry for the many things that we have done that are wrong. We are sorry that we have hurt you and other people around us. We are also sorry for all the things we should have done but we didn't do. We are asking now for forgiveness for these things, and for other things that we have done wrong and don't even know about. Please forgive us. In your name alone we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God loves us so much. Our sins are forgiven. That is a gift from God. We can say thank you by living new and better lives. Thank you, God!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we are eager to hear your word. Open our ears and hearts to understand what is read today, and help us to learn from your teachings. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Psalm 24

¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

²**for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**

³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

⁵They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶**Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

⁸**Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰**Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

Matthew 21:1-11

²¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

SERMON

Good, Nice, and Right

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN 525 Let Us Break Bread Together

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

For Holy Communion this morning, I invite you to lend Christ your table.

On the first day of Holy Week long ago, people throughout Judea arrived at the dusty gates of Jerusalem, primed with "Hosanna" in their hearts and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey. On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given John Mark's mother's Upper Room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples.

On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless.

Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart, for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, "The Lord has need of it."

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

We give you our thanks and praise, O God, from wherever we sit. We know you are with us and your Spirit connects us to one another and to you.

We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing.

Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace.

Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your child shelters in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all.

Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember that Paul the apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout places we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia, and they were the first “remote” worship resources.

Our online service has a long heritage. The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

“This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives.

May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic.

Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen

HYMN 209 My Song Is Love Unknown

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE "Ride On, King Jesus" Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Gina Sprunger**

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Online Communion Liturgy for Palm Sunday April 5, 2020
By Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES
WATCH FOR ZOOM INVITATIONS**

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, NOON

