

Home Worship Liturgy
Palm Sunday
April 5, 2020

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

I. Call to Worship – Today is Palm Sunday! We encourage you to use house plants, fallen tree branches, or palm branch coloring pages to join with the crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Below are words from Matthew's telling of the triumphal entry. Wave your makeshift palm branches and shout these hosannas together – welcome the King into your home!

*“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”
-Matthew 21:9*

II. Bible Song – Psalm 118:21-29 or Psalm 23

III. Hymnsing – if those gathered choose to sing together, here are a few options:

- Sing familiar hymns accompanied by a piano or another instrument, if available.
- Sing familiar hymns *a cappella*
- Consult hymnary.org for hymn lyrics (and some music sheets) to distribute, if necessary.

IV. Prayer for Illumination – Prayed by one voice or by all.

*Eternal God,
whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty:
Quiet within us every voice but your own.
Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ,
that by the power of your Holy Spirit
we may receive grace to show Christ's love
in lives given to your service. Amen.*

V. Scripture Reading – The Scripture passage scheduled to be preached this week Sunday, April 5: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.

If you practice *lectio divina*, you could also try another text more amenable to *lectio divina* (see suggestions at the end of this document).

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

VI. Scripture Reflection – Some options here:

- Worshipers can watch the video sermon from Pastor Rebecca on Lust (the seventh in our series on the seven deadly sins). Find the video on Facebook and the church website on Sunday morning at 10 AM!
- Worshipers can read the week's Scripture text ahead of time and each come with thoughts or reflections.
- Worshipers can practice *lectio divina* with the week's Scripture reading (see the guide on *lectio divina* at the end of this document), or another Scripture text.

VII. Open Prayer – Spend time together in prayer. Options:

- One person could prepare a prayer to pray here.
- One person could read aloud the prayer sent along by the pastors.
- Leave open space for everyone to offer prayer requests, praises, and concerns, and then finish with one voice offering a prayer for all.
- Share prayer requests, praises, and concerns and then pray aloud together "popcorn" style, with one person opening and another closing the prayer time.

The Lord's Prayer – Finish your prayer time saying the Lord's Prayer together.

**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**

VIII. Blessing – One person may offer the blessing to God's people gathered. Here are a few options:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

Guide for *Lectio Divina*

What is *lectio divina*?

In *lectio divina*, our intent in hearing Scripture is *not* primarily to gain information but to be transformed by an encounter with the God who loves us. This quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer helps explain the practice:

The Word of Scripture should never stop sounding in your ears and working in you all day long, just like the words of someone you love. And just as you do not analyze the words of someone you love, but accept them as they are said to you, accept the Word of Scripture and ponder it in your heart, as Mary did. That is all...Do not ask "How shall I pass this on?" but "What does it say to me?" Then ponder this word long in your heart until it has gone right into you and taken possession of you. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Scripture Text suggestions:

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Lamentations 3: 21-26

Psalm 34

Psalm 121

Psalm 139: 1-18

Matthew 19: 13-15

John 10: 7-10

Ephesians 3: 14-21

1 John 4: 7-21

Practice of *lectio divina*:

Read the Scripture text out loud four times, preferably with a different voice reading each time. Allow for a 3-5 minute silence between each reading. Use the following to guide your reading and hearing:

- 1) 1st Reading: **READ.** What word or phrase strikes you? Sit with it trusting God has led you to it.
- 2) 2nd Reading: **REFLECT.** How is your life touched by the word the Lord has given you?
- 3) 3rd Reading: **RESPOND.** What is your response to the promise in this passage? Allow this response to flow freely in this time of silence.
- 4) 4th Reading: **REST.** Simply rest with God now and enjoy God's presence knowing it is God who will enable you to respond to whatever you have heard.

Finally, resolve to carry this word with you and to live it out in your daily life.