

PRAISE!
HOSANNA!
SON OF DAVID!
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

Welcome:

Today's worship service involves Holy Communion. We recognize that this sacrament is best observed within the gathered Christian community and presided over by the Minister. We also recognize that we are in very different circumstances and so in this season we take appropriate thought and carefulness when preparing and participating in Holy Communion.

Reading, reflection, prayer, reading reflection prayer, communion, prayer.

Need paper, scissors.

Call to Worship:

"I will come closer to your very altar until I come before you, the God of my joy! I will praise you with the harp that plays in my heart, to you, my God, my magnificent God!" (Psalm 43:4)

- Now is the time to celebrate our magnificent God and praise Him with the harp that plays in our heart.
- Today is the day that we rejoice in our God.

- We come with our joys, our sorrows, our triumphs and our fears, and we bring it all into his presence with hearts that are open to give to God and to receive from God all that He has for us.

Reading:

“⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The 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!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”” (Matthew 20:1-10)

Reflection:

- A familiar story, one we visit each year with the crowd celebrating Jesus as He enters into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- He was modelling the return of King David to Jerusalem in peace and humility (2 Sam. 19—20), and the entrance of Solomon into Jerusalem for his enthronement (1 Kings 1:38-40; Gen. 49:10-11). On each of these occasions, the king rode a donkey.

- The large company of pilgrims, mainly from Galilee, were acknowledging Jesus as a King by spreading their coats on the road before Him (cf. 2 Kings 9:13). Likewise, throwing small palm branches before Him.
- Their hearts were bursting forth with songs of joyful praise, giving honour to the king.
- Many Jews were also in Jerusalem for the annual Passover feast, and they would have known of Jesus from His previous visits.
- The people's words of praise came from Psalm 118:25-26. The Jews used this psalm at the Passover as part of "the great Hallel" (Pss. 113—18) They also used it at the feasts of Tabernacles and Dedication.
- The three affirmations they called to Jesus include:
- "Hosanna" transliterates the Hebrew word for "Save us now!" (2 Sam. 14:4; 2 Kings 6:26).
- 'Save us from the Roman empire!!!'
- "Son of David" this is the messianic title that stressed the kingly role that Messiah would play. "He who comes in the name of the Lord" is likewise a messianic reference (23:39; cf. 3:11; 11:3; Ps. 118:26).
- Their idea of a Messiah came from their understanding of King David and they were anticipating a king that embodied their earthly perception.

- They were wanting a Messiah who would rule them like David ruled Israel.
- "Hosanna in the highest" probably meant "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14). Quoting this passage voiced praise to God for sending the Messiah, as they cried out to Him for deliverance.
- Now it's our turn to wave our palms in praise to God.

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving:

- Draw the outline of your hand on some paper and cut around it
- Write 5 things that you thank and praise God for (one on each finger)
- Wave your palms of praise!

Prayer: for the offering

Lord, you are worthy to receive our thanksgiving and praise. May you be glorified not just in our palms, but in our mouths and our hearts.

Take what we give through our tithes and offerings and bless them so that they may be used to share the good news of your love to all humanity.

Amen.

- It was only a matter of days from when Jesus entered Jerusalem and when He had his last supper with His friends at the festival of the Passover.
- Hear this story:

Reading:

“Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”” (John 13:1-4)

Reflection:

- At the first Passover, when the powerful presence of God moved over Egypt, it was the turning point in the redemption of the people of God, so this Passover was the turning point for the redemption of the whole of creation.

- Washing feet in such a situation was the role of the most menial of servants. Normally a servant would be present to wash the feet of the disciples, but there were none present in the upper room since it was a secret meal.
- The disciples did not want to wash each other's feet, since they had just been arguing about which of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24).
- Jesus, while fully aware of His authority from the Father, His divine origin, and His divine destiny, became a slave and washed the disciple's feet. Jesus even dressed Himself as a slave.
- Here, Jesus reversed normal roles, and assumed the place of a servant rather than that of a rabbi. This stresses his humility and love even more.
- His act demonstrated love, provided a model of Christian conduct, and symbolized cleansing.
- Here, Jesus distinguished the two types of spiritual cleansing that believers experience: legal forgiveness and personal forgiveness.
- When a person believes in Jesus as Saviour, God removes all the guilt of that person for sins committed in the past, present, and future (Rom. 5:1; 8:1).
- Jesus spoke of this as legal forgiveness – as a total washing.

- After a person believes in Jesus as Saviour, he or she commits sins—and those sins hinder the believer's fellowship with God (Matt. 6:12, 14-15; Luke 11:4;).
- Jesus compared this personal forgiveness to 'washing the feet,' which become dirty while walking through life.
- Therefore, Jesus was illustrating the importance of believers obtaining spiritual cleansing from God periodically. We obtain this cleansing by confessing our sins to God (1 John 1:9; cf. 1 John 2:24; 5:13).
- The source for both types of forgiveness is Jesus' work on the cross.
- We remember Christ's act of love and humility for our cleansing and restoration.
- We know that our sins have been forgiven, and we also know that as we journey through life, we pick up dirt along the way – attitudes, words and behaviours that need ongoing cleansing and forgiveness.
- It's the mud that sticks because we, or someone else has jumped in a puddle of ungodliness.

Questions for consideration:

- a. Where, when and how have you failed to serve others?**
- b. What ungodly thoughts, words, attitudes and behaviours have been present in your life?**
- c. What would you like Jesus to wash in you?**

Activity: spend some time reflecting upon the questions and if you would like, write brief answers on the other side of your cut out hand.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the humble and gentle way that you lived and died. Everything you did from serving, teaching, healing, touching, loving and forgiving, you did with gentleness and humility, for our benefit and not for your own.

We thank you for the people who have loved and served us – this week, this year, throughout our life... They have been your hands and feet, and they have blessed us deeply. Bless, strengthen and empower them through your Spirit.

We confess that we haven't always taken the opportunity to love and serve others. In the chaos of these last few weeks we have had other things on our mind and in our heart. Forgive us.

Lord, in your humble, gentle love, wash our feet again. Cleanse us from the sins of criticism, judgment, pride and selfishness. And with your grace soiled hands, wipe away the residue of our transgression so that we can rise again, free, clean, forgiven and restored. Amen.

Affirmation:

Jesus chose to live and die for us. It was His joy and delight to take our sin, to wash us clean from our sin and forgive us for our sin. Hear and receive forgiveness and restoration through Christ. Hallelujah!

- It was at this, His last supper, that Jesus disclosed the power of His body and blood as it was about to be given and poured out for them.
- And so we turn our hearts to His:

Communion

Invitation:

The Lord's table was prepared by His disciples, just like you. Those who followed and obeyed Him prepared and set the table for Him.

Today Jesus invites to His table all who wish to receive strength, grace, love peace and joy for the journey ahead.

We come to the Lord's table, firstly, because He has invited us, and secondly, because we love Him and want to fellowship with Him.

Tell the Story:

Take the Bread: The Lord Jesus on the night that He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said:

'This is my body which is given for you. When you break this bread, remember how my body was broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.'

Take the Cup: In the same way also, He took the cup after supper saying:

'This cup is the new covenant made in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me.'

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. And so according to our Saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup apart for the holy supper to which He calls us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

God, you are more majestic than the everlasting mountains, for You made them and indeed, you made all things; you hold all things and you sustain all things. We praise you for your eternal, faithful, everlasting promises to us, and we praise you for your son Jesus.

Born of Mary, He lived a humble, pure, righteous, simple life. Through His ministry He healed, taught, blessed, embraced and delivered many.

Bearing the cross, He disarmed evil and reconciled the whole of creation to you. Through His death and resurrection, we are healed and forgiven, and we receive new life.

Thank you that you take and use the broken and ordinary things of this world, such as tax collectors, sinners, fishermen, and all who gather in your name, and here today you take this bread and juice, and make it sacred by your presence.

Holy Spirit cause this meal to become the holy presence of Jesus for us. Cause your people to become one. Unite us in faith; encourage us with hope; and sustain us with peace and joy so that we might persevere in all you have called us to. Today, we receive Jesus Christ as He comes to us in this holy banquet. Amen.

Take and Break the bread:

Christ is the bread of life, which was broken for us, food for healing and wholeness.

Lift the Cup:

Christ is the cup of hope, poured out for the forgiveness of our sins. This is the source of Kingdom love.

Church, this is the gift of God for the people of God.

Partake of the Elements:

Prayer After communion:

God of love, thank you for nourishing us with the bread of life and the cup of resurrection hope. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service, comforted in our distress, joyful amidst our struggles and peace filled in troubling times. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

- The prayer we know as The Lord's Prayer offers us insight into what God desires us to seek Him for.
- Today the Lord's prayer will become a guide for our Prayer. We won't pray it line after line, we will allow each line to prompt us in how and what to pray for.

- Example, our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name prompts us to declare the character and nature of God – powerful, good, faithful, kind...
- We will read the line and pray in silence

Our Father, who is in heaven, holy is your name...

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

Give us today day our daily bread...

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us...

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

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

Peace:

Notices: Holy Week 10:00am Morning Meditations with Malia; Good Friday 9:00am; Easter Sunday 9:00am; Sermon Series after Easter

Benediction:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” (2 Cor. 13:13) As you go in Peace and joy to love and serve. Amen.

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