



## The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

*Palm Sunday*

*April 5, 2020*

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come— this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Prelude

### Opening Prayer

### Greeting and Call To Worship

**Leader:** As we are called into worship today, it is sobering to remember that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus, most of the world did not recognize him and therefore did not worship him. Today we ask for faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is, that we might worship him in truth. People of God, behold and see your God!

**People:** *We open our eyes to see his glory.  
We open our ears to hear his wisdom.  
We open our hands to offer him gifts.  
We open our mouths to sing his praise.  
We open our hearts to offer him our love.  
He is Lord!*

### Opening Hymn | All Glory, Laud and Honor

Words by Theodulph of Orleans (820), music by Melchior Teschner (1615)

*All glory, laud, and honor, to you, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children, made sweet hosannas ring.  
You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.*

*The company of angels, is praising you on high;  
And we with all creation, in chorus make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews, with palms before you went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems, before you we present.*

*To you before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.  
As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,  
For you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!*

## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

**Leader:** Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## Hymn of Worship | What Wondrous Love is This

*Appalachian Folk Hymn; Southern Harmony, 1835*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down;  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM -  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on!*

## Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

**People:** *Jesus, our Lord, we shout hosannas to praise you. With eager hands, we place our cloaks and palms on the path before you. Yet, Lord, we confess that the mouths that seek to praise you often deny or defy you. And we confess that the hands that seek to serve you often become fists. Lord, hear us as we confess.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

**Leader:** Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! For Christ came into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through him should be saved. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Hosanna! Amen!

**People:** *Thanks be to God!*

— based on Matthew 21.8-9; John 3.17; Ephesians 5.1-2

## Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 50.4-9a

[4] The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.  
[5] The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.  
[6] I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.  
  
[7] But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.  
[8] He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who is my adversary?  
Let him come near to me.  
[9] Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

## Hymn of Worship | Be Still My Soul

Words by Katharina Von Schlegel, 1752; Music by Jean Sibelius, 1899

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change, He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend,  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future, as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.  
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.—*

—continued—

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

## **Psalm | Psalm 31.9-16**

**Leader:** Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

**People:** *My eye is wasted from grief;*

**Leader:** My soul and my body also.

**People:** *For my life is spent with sorrow,*

**Leader:** And my years with sighing;

**People:** *My strength fails because of my iniquity,*

**Leader:** And my bones waste away.

**People:** *Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,*

**Leader:** Especially to my neighbors,

**People:** *And an object of dread to my acquaintances;*

**Leader:** Those who see me in the street flee from me.

**People:** *I have been forgotten like one who is dead;*

**Leader:** I have become like a broken vessel.

**People:** *For I hear the whispering of many—*

**Leader:** Terror on every side!—

**People:** *As they scheme together against me,*

**Leader:** As they plot to take my life.

**People:** *But I trust in you, O LORD;*

**Leader:** I say, "You are my God."

**People:** *My times are in your hand;*

**Leader:** Rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

**People:** *Make your face shine on your servant;*

**Leader:** Save me in your steadfast love!

**Sermon Text | Matthew 27:45-56**

[45] Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. [46] And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" [47] And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." [48] And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. [49] But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." [50] And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

[51] And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. [52] The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, [53] and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. [54] When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

[55] There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, [56] among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

**Sermon Notes**

## Confession of Faith

*I believe that God,  
because of Christ's atonement,  
will never hold against me  
any of my sins  
nor my sinful nature,  
which I need to struggle against all my life.  
Rather, in his grace  
God grants me the righteousness of Christ  
to free me forever from judgment.*

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A56

## Prayers of the People, Concluded with 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts!

**People:** *We lift them up to the Lord!*

**Leader:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God!

**People:** *It is right to give him thanks and praise!*

**Leader:** It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

**People:** *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!*

## **One More Hymn | Heal Us Emmanuel**

*Words by William Cowper (alt Twit), Music by Kevin Twit and Lucas Morton (2015)*

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are;  
We long to feel Thy touch;  
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly,  
O Savior hear our cry.*

*Our faith is feeble, we confess,  
We faintly trust Thy word;  
But will You pity us the less?  
Be that far from You Lord!*

*Remember him who once applied  
With trembling for relief;  
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried;  
"O help my unbelief!"*

*She, too, who touched you in the press  
And healing virtue stole,  
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace:  
Thy faith has made thee whole."*

*Like her, with hopes and fears we come  
To touch You if we may;  
O send us not despairing home;  
Send none unhealed away.*

### **Benediction & Dismissal**

**Leader:** May our Lord, whose arms were spread on the cross  
to embrace the whole world,  
help us this week to take up the cross and follow him.

**People:** Amen.

## Prayer Suggestions:

Topic of the Week: needs of our city.

- Monday  
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in our schools.
- Tuesday  
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in city, state, and local government, and justice systems.
- Wednesday  
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in local law enforcement, emergency response personnel, and hospitals.
- Thursday  
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically amongst our immigrant, economically disadvantaged, and minority populations. See Deuteronomy 10.17-19.
- Friday  
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically for a unity within our churches and between our churches in the cause of Christ.
- Saturday  
That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically that the gospel would be proclaimed throughout our city's churches.