

2020 04 05 The Service of the Word

IN THE NAME

P: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He,

C: Humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

(Zechariah 9:9)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. We deserve Your eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession and prayer I, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PSALM 31:9-16

P: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my iniquity,
and my bones waste away.

Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,
especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

I have been forgotten like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many –
terror on every side! –
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in You, O Lord;
I say, “You are my God.”

My times are in Your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!
Make Your face shine on Your servant;
save me in Your steadfast love!

**C: Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Loving Father of all, Your only Son came as a servant and was obedient all the way to His death on the cross. Make us humble like Christ, and bring us to be with Him in His glory. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

P: Our reading from the Holy Scriptures for today comes from Philippians 2:5-11.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 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.”

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Our Gospel reading for today comes from gospel according to Matthew 21:1-11.

“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, 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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

SERMON based on Philippians 2 and Matthew 21.

P: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sermon “We ride with Jesus the Christ!”

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray!

C: Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanks what You have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — as signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for us. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious Lord, keep Your Church in Your mercy, that she may endure the assaults of the evil one and remain faithful for the sake of those numbered within Your Kingdom and those who have not yet heard the Gospel and been brought to faith.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, by Your Spirit You have established us as Your Church and granted to us particular vocations within the Church, home and community in which to serve You. Grant to us every gift and blessing needful, that we may honour our calling and serve You to the best of our ability.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, we pray for Your guidance and wisdom for our congregations. Bless our efforts to reorganize the way we walk and serve together, stir us up by Your Spirit to live out fully who we are as Your chosen people. Help us to quickly establish our Support Network, guide us in Your wisdom in our different situations and make this

network blessing for us and also many other who have ears to hear Your Gospel, so that we can encourage one another, care for one another, and pray for one another.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of power and might, You hold in Your hand all the might of man. Give to us good government and faithful leaders who will heed Your Word and pursue righteousness and justice. Bless and defend us against all destruction, especially from this deadly pandemic, and teach us to be patient and faithful citizens of this land, using ourselves and our resources wisely for the good of all.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, Your grace is sufficient for all our needs, and You have promised to be the strength of the weary, the hope of those who fear, the healing of the ill, and the peace of all who are distressed. Hear us on behalf of all whom we name in our hearts, that they may be well supplied by Your grace in their time of trouble.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, it is Your will that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of Your Son by faith. Give to Your Word success and deliver from error all those who live in darkness, that they may walk in the light of the Lord Jesus.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Lord, You give food to the hungry and provide for all our needs in this mortal life. Grant to us a grateful heart and knowledge to use wisely and well all that You have entrusted to our care.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, as once Your Son was welcomed with palms and hosannas, help us to welcome Him who comes to us this day in His Word and His Spirit. Guard us against false teaching and help us to discern truth from error, that none may be led astray or lost from the fellowship of Your Son.

For into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. 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.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour †, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Announcements.