



HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

GATHERING

This Sunday being the first Sunday of the month, we celebrate communion together. This will obviously be an entirely different experience than when we celebrate the Lord's Supper together in one physical location. Yet as we often remind each other, church is not a place or a building, but a people, even when we are scattered in our various households. As we gather together online at the same time, Jesus is spiritually present to all of us as we take this common meal together. To prepare for communion, set up a small table or coffee table in the place where you are worshipping together. Set out bread and wine or juice.

PRELUDE | "ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR" (MICHAEL BURKHARDT)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 62:5

- › For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait;
- » **Truly our hope is in you.**

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM ZECHARIAH 9:9, PSALM 118:26

- › Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
- » **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!**
- › Lo, your king comes to you;
- » **Triumphant and victorious is he,**
- › Humble and riding on a donkey,
- » **On a colt, the foal of a donkey.**
- › Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
- » **Hosanna in the highest!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Take a few moments with the people you are gathered with, or on your own, to praise God for his goodness and faithfulness, even in this moment of crisis.

SONG OF PRAISE

"HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA"

MUSIC ON PAGE 2

HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

A^b Fm E^b D^b E^b A^b

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na the lit - tle chil-dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

Fm E^b D^b E^b_{sus} E^b A^b

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.
 the vic - tory palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven, our King.

E^b A^b E^b

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

A^b Fm E^b D^b E^b_{sus} E^b A^b
descant st.3

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

For an alternate arrangement see 679. For music in a higher key see 726

Words: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, P.D.

Music (ELLACOMBE 7.6.7.6 D): *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784, P.D.*

SONG OF PRAISE

"HOSANNA (PRAISE IS RISING)"

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to you, we turn to you.
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for you, we long for you.
'Cause when we see you we find strength to face the day.
In your presence, all our fears are washed away, washed away.

Hosanna, hosanna!
You are the God who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises.
Hosanna, hosanna!
Come have your way among us,
We welcome you here, Lord Jesus.

Hear the sound of hearts returning to you, we turn to you.
In your kingdom broken lives are made new, you make us new.
'Cause when we see you we find strength to face the day.
In your presence, all our fears are washed away, washed away.

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- › Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and then later pronounced, "Crucify him," we are fickle people who often deny Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- » **Help us see ourselves for what we are:
sinners in need of a Savior, a Savior that we have in Christ.
In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT

- › Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?
- » **Only Christ.**
- › And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; the new life has begun!
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.
- » **Thanks be to God!**

GREETING OF PEACE

As a new spiritual family reconciled to one another through Christ, take a few moments to pass the peace of Christ to one another as you're able, either with those in your home, or by sending a text to other friends and family watching.

THANKSGIVING

OUR OFFERINGS | FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29:14

- › Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?
- » **For all things come from you and what we now offer is already yours.**

To give online, visit thirdrva.org/generosity.

Please pray for our mission partner Murray Withrow and his family with Servant Partners as they minister in Richmond to the men in Church Hill and Mosby Court.

OFFERTORY | "I SHALL NOT WANT"

From the love of my own comfort, from the fear of having nothing,
From a life of worldly passions, deliver me, O God.

From the need to be understood, from the need to be accepted,
From the fear of being lonely, deliver me, O God. Deliver me, O God!

*And I shall not want, I shall not want.
When I taste your goodness, I shall not want.
When I taste your goodness, I shall not want.*

From the fear of serving others, from the fear of death or trial,
From the fear of humility, deliver me, O God. Deliver me, O God!

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING | MARK 15:1-15

¹Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

²"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

³The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

⁵But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, ¹⁰knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹²"What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

¹³"Crucify him!" they shouted.

¹⁴"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

› This is the word of the Lord.

» **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE | "SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE"

THE APOSTLES' CREED

› Christians, what do you believe?

» **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 there he shall 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.
Amen.**

RESPONDING

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- › Lift up your hearts!
- » **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- › Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- » **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, you have made us in your image and for yourself. You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy. God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**

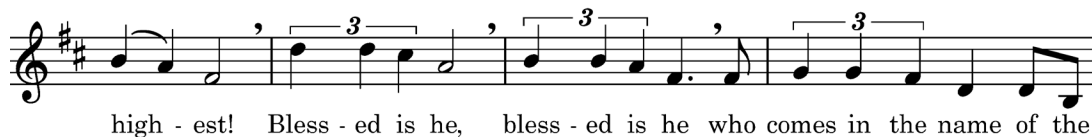
- › You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you. You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home. God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
- › You have sent your Son to bring us home to you. By his Incarnation—
- » **You have found us.**

- › By his Death—
- » **You have forgiven us.**

- › By his Resurrection—
- » **You have freed us.**

- › God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**

- › In union with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Great High Priest, and with all who worship you, both in heaven and on earth, we offer you our praise, singing:



RESPONDING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION | FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

"The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

As Pastor Corey picks up the bread to break it, pick up the bread in your home and also break it.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

As Corey lifts up the cup in thanksgiving, pick up the cup in your home in thanksgiving.

- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—
- » **One with Christ, one with each other, and one in mission to all the world,**
- › Until Christ shall come in final victory and we feast together at his heavenly banquet. We cry,
- » **Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen!**

After Corey prays for the Holy Spirit to come and consecrate us and the sacrament, he will invite you to partake together, then take the bread and cup and distribute it among yourselves.

As we take the elements together, spend some moments in reflection, meditating on the mercy of God given to us in Jesus' death and resurrection, and consider the amazing way God binds us together in unity through Jesus' sacrifice. Spend some time praising and thanking God for his gift of love.

The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is one of the two sacraments we celebrate (the other is baptism). It is one of the most important things we do when we gather together, because the bread and juice are concrete signs of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. When we come forward to receive them, we believe that Jesus is actually present through the Holy Spirit, extending his grace and forgiveness to us.

We welcome anyone to the table who is willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. If you are not able to receive Communion, we invite you to use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer of those searching for truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Lead me into the light and life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief: Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more blind and sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete acceptance. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

– Adapted from prayers written by Rev. Scot Sherman, Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

RESPONDING

COMMUNION SONG | "EAT THIS BREAD"

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spend some time praying aloud for the following topics, and for concerns in your life and community:

Pray that God would guide the church to love its neighbors in this moment.

Pray that God would save lives from the coronavirus.

Pray that God would give our authorities wisdom, and our people peace and receptivity.

Pray that God would strengthen and bless our healthcare workers.

Pray that God would give wisdom and revelation to our health experts, and that treatments and vaccinations would be discovered.

Pray that God would equip us with ways to safely and self-sacrificially serve our local communities in this moment, especially the elderly, those with frail immune systems, people in need of work or childcare, and the uninsured who often delay needed care due to fear about financial consequences.

Gathering our prayers into one, let us boldly pray as our Savior has taught us:

- » **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. Amen.**

SENDING

SONG OF COMMISSION | "WE ARE NOT OVERCOME"

Flesh will fail, bones will break;
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake.
Night will fall, the light will fade;
The Lord will give and take away.

Put no trust in the earth,
In the sod you stand upon.
Flowers fade into dust;
The Lord will make a place for us.

*Because of his great love,
We are not overcome!
Because of his great love,
We are not overcome!*

Offer up your shoes and shirt;
Turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give all life and breath.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING | FROM LUKE 9:51, MATTHEW 16:24-25

- › Our Lord is on a journey, leading through betrayal, suffering, and torture, and ending on the cross. He invites us to follow him. Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."
- » **May the Lord grant us grace to follow Jesus and to give to him our very lives.
For in giving away our lives, we find them, and in dying we live.**

POSTLUDE | "HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA" (LANI SMITH)