**Incarnation Family Worship**

**Palm Sunday**

**April 5, 2020**

Welcome to worship this Sunday morning! We are saddened that we cannot yet gather as the body of Christ to share together in Word and Sacrament, but we are thankful that we can, through social media, worship separately together.  You are invited to follow the worship bulletin designed for family use.  You are invited to find a way to make your offering to God and send it to the church office so that the ministry of Incarnation may continue. Additionally, there are some reflection questions for you as a family to discuss following worship, and please make sure to follow the links to the music Patrick is providing each Sunday.

**GREETING**

L: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**F: Hosanna in the highest.**

**BLESSING OF PALMS**

L: The Lord be with you.

**F: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

 We praise you, O God.

 for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

 Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king

 by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

 Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L:O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**READINGS**

### **First Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

 4The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
 that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
 Morning by morning he wakens—
  wakens my ear
  to listen as those who are taught.
 5The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
  I did not turn backward.
 6I gave my back to those who struck me,
  and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
 I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

 7The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
 therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
  8he who vindicates me is near.
 Who will contend with me?
  Let us stand up together.
 Who are my adversaries?
  Let them confront me.
 9aIt is the Lord God who helps me;
  who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 31:9-16**

 9Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
  my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
 10**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**
  **my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
 11I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
  when they see me in the street they avoid me.
 12**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**
  **I am as useless as a broken pot.**
 13For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
  they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
 14**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.**
  **I have said, “You are my God.**
 15My times are in your hand;
  rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
 16**Let your face shine upon your servant;**
  **save me in your steadfast love.”**

### **Second Reading:** Philippians 2:5-11

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

9Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11**

*The Passion According to Matthew has been prerecorded and posted as a link.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**.

1When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 4This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
 5"Tell the daughter of Zion,
 Look, your king is coming to you,
 humble, and mounted on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The 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!"
10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" 11The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pastor Jane

**SERMON REFLECTION**

 **1.**  What part of the sermon best speaks to you this day?
 **2.**  Did you hear something new?  something familiar?
 **3**.  Did the sermon provoke a question or concern?

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shakes. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief especially, Pete Brooks, Ina Roof Berkey, Eloise Justice, Don Moody, Charlie, Tom Baldwin, Gayle Faust, Rev. George M. Rushe, Jackie Rhodes, all those that are home bound, and Emily Prince. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, we pray for all suffering from the vicious impact of the Coronavirus.  Give strength, comfort, and peace to all who are suffering in any way.  We pray especially for the health professionals caring for the sick and dying, especially Jason Harris, Dr. Jordan Shealy, Katelyn Shealy, Melissa Corbett, and Ashley English sustain them in their weariness, strengthen them in their endeavors, and keep them safe from all harm so they might care for those who need the touch of their healing hands. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire, Renew, and Empower those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries this week especially, Mia Snyder and Michael Parker. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give joy to those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially, William Boozer, Amy Ely, Mimi Fisher, Randy Huth, Ethan Johnson, Noah Meyer, Mariel Norton, Jennifer Richardson, and Debbie Shurr. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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 trespasses,**

**as we forgive those** **who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,** **and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*So that the various ministries of the congregation may continue, please take a moment to place your weekly offering in a basket and then mail to the church or give your weekly offering online at this time.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**All:** Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

L: Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ☩ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

**F: Amen**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace, share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

*Family may share the Peace of Christ with one another as worship ends.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Maundy Thursday (April 9) - 6pm

This year’s Maundy Thursday service will be two-fold;  first, we will gather on Facebook live for Confession and Forgiveness and the Prayer of the Day; then secondly, you will continue the rest of this Maundy Thursday service in your individual homes centered around a family meal together.  So, plan a family meal for that evening.  Have a candle to light as you begin the meal.  You also will need to gather, ahead of time, any faith related items you may have in your homes that are easily movable.  They need to be placed on your dining table for the meal and then “stripped” away at the end of the meal for storage until Sunday morning.  More specific directions are found in Pastor Kraft’s worship design at this point in the service.

Good Friday (April 10) - 6pm Facebook live and Seven Last Words From the Cross

 (The link to a service led by the Bishop, bishop’s staff, and synodical deans of the SC Synod)

Easter Festival (April 12) - 10am - Facebook live and then a link to Easter Festival service - Pastor Jane, presiding and preaching;

 Patrick Hawkins, director of music;

 Seminarian Mac, lay assistant;

Janet Hoffman, lector and soloist.