

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 139:1-14 (p. 836 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,”

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present:
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty and most merciful Father, we acknowledge and publicly confess that we erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep by following the sinful inclinations and desires of our own hearts.

All: We did not obey your holy laws. We left undone the things which we ought to have done, and we did things which we ought not to have done.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Enable us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and to live according to your revealed will. Help us to do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

All: Give us a growing desire to joyfully serve you and one another as we follow after our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:17-20

And Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 706

Jesus Lives, and So Shall I

Jesus lives, and so shall I.
Death! thy sting is gone forever!
He who deigned for me to die,
Lives, the bands of death to sever.
He shall raise me from the dust:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and reigns supreme;
And, his kingdom still remaining,
I shall also be with him,
Ever living, ever reigning.
God has promised: be it must:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives, and by his grace,
Vict'ry o'er my passions giving,
I will cleanse my heart and ways,
Ever to his glory living.
Me he raises from the dust:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Naught from him my heart can sever,
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell,
Joy nor grief, henceforth forever.
None of all his saints is lost:
Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and death is now
But my entrance into glory.
Courage, then, my soul, for thou
Hast a crown of life before thee;
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just:
Jesus is the Christian's trust. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 53. *Which is the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment is “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

Q. 54. *What is required in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God’s names, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word, and works.

Q. 55. *What is forbidden in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything by which God makes himself known.

Q. 56. *What is the reason attached to the third commandment?*

A. The reason attached to the third commandment is that, however those who break this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not allow them to escape his righteous judgment.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship ❖

Doxology*

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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 forever. Amen.

❖ *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary, or given online through our church’s website.*

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

John 11:45-57

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 139:1-12])

Hymn 36

Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me

Lord, thou hast searched me, and dost know
Where'er I rest, where'er I go;
Thou knowest all that I have planned,
And all my ways are in thy hand.

My words from thee I cannot hide;
I feel thy pow'r on every side;
O wondrous knowledge, awesome might,
Unfathomed depth, unmeasured height!

Where can I go apart from thee,
Or whither from thy presence flee?
In heav'n?—it is thy dwelling fair;
In death's abode?—lo, thou art there.

If I the wings of morning take,
And far away my dwelling make,
The hand that leadeth me is thine,
And my support thy pow'r divine.

If deepest darkness cover me,
The darkness hideth not from thee;
To thee both night and day are bright,
The darkness shineth as the light. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Jesus’ Triumphal Entry”
John 12:12-19

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 295

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow’r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flow’rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit,
Be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, April 3

Scripture: Deuteronomy 23:1 - 25:19; Luke 10:13-37; Psalm 75:1-10; Prov. 12:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 21

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, April 4

Scripture: Deut. 26:1 - 27:26; Luke 10:38 - 11:13; Psalm 76:1-12; Prov. 12:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 40

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, April 5

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Luke 11:14-36; Psalm 77:1-20; Proverbs 12:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 41

Pray for: Our covenant children, and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Malaysia and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, April 6

Scripture: Deut. 29:1 - 30:20; Luke 11:37 - 12:7; Psalm 78:1-31; Prov. 12:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 42

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA. Our pregnant moms.

Friday, April 7

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:1 - 32:27; Luke 12:8-34; Psalm 78:32-55; Prov. 12:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 43

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

Saturday, April 8

Scripture: Deuteronomy 32:28-52; Luke 12:35-59; Psalm 78:56-64; Proverbs 12:24

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 44

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, April 9

Scripture: Deuteronomy 33:1-29; Luke 13:1-21; Psalm 78:65-72; Proverbs 12:25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 45

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.

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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

All four gospels record Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It was a significant event that revealed his awareness of his identity and his determination to accomplish the work the Father had given him to do (John 17:4). Jesus was aware of the danger to his life if he entered Jerusalem, and that is precisely why he went and coordinated his entrance to coincide with the symbolism familiar to the Jews of his day. Jesus was prepared to "give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45) and believed that he would be vindicated and "raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

As we consider Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we are reminded of his promise that he will return triumphantly on the Last Day. The difference will be that he will not come humbly, but he will come to judge those who oppose him and to usher in the new heavens and the new earth. We hear his promise at the end of the Book of Revelation as Jesus says, "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). And we as his Church say, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

1. Read 2 Samuel 7:12-17; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-10; and Psalm 110. What kind of Messiah do these passages describe? How does this help you understand the expectations that many first-century Jews had about the Messiah?
2. Read Matthew 21:1-7, which describes how Jesus planned his entry into Jerusalem. What does this passage reveal about his intentions? What did he want people to conclude about his identity?
3. What are some of the different views about Jesus in our society today? Why do you think there are so many different opinions about Jesus, and what do you think we as Christians should do to help people understand the truth about him?
4. What is the significance of what the crowds were shouting from Psalm 118 as Jesus entered into Jerusalem? Why does John cite Zechariah 9:9?
5. What are the practical implications for our lives as we consider Jesus' triumphal entry, especially as we consider the way Jesus was joyfully received into Jerusalem on Sunday and rejected just a few days later on Friday?