

Liturgy for Palm Sunday, 5 April 2020

Notes on Today's Worship Service

Welcome to worship this Palm Sunday. We're glad you've gathered with the International Protestant Church of Zurich to seek God's face.

If you're participating in a live service, here are some things to help enrich your experience. If you're worshipping on your own, most of this can be ignored.

Screen Splitting. If you're participating in the virtual service, it will be helpful to split your screen, with Zoom on one side, and this Order of Worship on the other. (Learn to do this on [Windows](#) and [Mac](#).) Or, you can use one device for Zoom and another for the Order of Worship.

Muting. Awkward as it is, please keep yourself muted during the service unless you are leading a certain part of the service. Otherwise it gets very noisy. During responsive parts of the service, keep yourself muted but please do participate!

Video Syncing. Please be ready to play videos that are embedded in the Order of Worship at the same time as the rest of the congregation. This will help us move to the next part of the service at the same time.

Stay afterward for Coffee Hour! Pour a cup of coffee and enjoy fellowship for 20 minutes or so after the service concludes. We will give instructions for entering different "rooms" for conversation.

Sermon Discussion. Andy will lead an informal discussion and Q&A time after coffee hour for any who want to stick around and talk through the Bible teaching.

Gathering in God's Presence

Greeting

The Bible is full of greetings, and our worship leader greets us in God's name.

From Colossians 1:2

To God's holy people in Zurich, faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Call to Worship

Our Call to Worship draws us into conversation with our God, and is usually taken from our Psalm of the Day. We address one another and enter God's presence together.

From Psalm 118

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!

His love endures forever!

Make your shouts of joy and victory resound!

In the tents of the righteous we will say, "He has done mighty things!"

Open wide the gates of the righteous!

We will enter in and give thanks to the LORD!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

From the house of the LORD, we bless him!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!

His love endures forever!

Let us worship God!

Prayer of Invocation

Having called one another to God's praise, we turn to God and ask for his presence and power.

Gracious God, we are gathered together to hail you as King. We exalt the Lord Jesus, our humble but exalted Ruler, upon our praises. We wave the palm branches of our hearts as you ride before us in majesty. Like the people of Jerusalem spread their garments across your path, we lay our very lives down before you. Our hope is to enter through the gates with you, and to give you thanks. We long to bless you within your house, and to experience your ever-enduring love today, and forever. Receive our shouts of victory, as they crown our Savior with honor. Make our praises resound from each of our homes to the place where your glory dwells, until the day that the whole earth full of the knowledge of your triumph. We humble ourselves before you. Ride on before us in majesty, and bring us with you. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen!

Song of Praise

With our Song of Praise, we begin our worship by exalting God for who he is and what he has done.

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

We ask God to make the Scripture fresh, encouraging, and convicting to us as we sit under its ministry.

King of Kings, we open the doors of our hearts and lives to you! Enter in, and make known your Word! Teach us your decrees. Rule by your wisdom. Execute justice and mercy. Do all this and more as we spread out beneath your feet and wait upon your instruction. Most of all, tell us of our need, and of the great King who meets our every need as he brings his kingdom and authority to bear on our hearts, our lives, our church, and our world. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Psalm of the Day

Our Psalm of the Day anchors our worship in God's Word. The Psalms allow us to express our praise, confess our need, and offer our prayers.

Psalm 118

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- 2 **Let Israel say:**
"His love endures forever."
- 3 Let the house of Aaron say:
"His love endures forever."
- 4 **Let those who fear the Lord say:**
"His love endures forever."
- 5 When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;
he brought me into a spacious place.
- 6 **The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.**
What can mere mortals do to me?
- 7 The Lord is with me; he is my helper.
I look in triumph on my enemies.
- 8 **It is better to take refuge in the Lord**
than to trust in humans.
- 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.
he has become my salvation.
- 15 **Shouts of joy and victory**
resound in the tents of the righteous:
"The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!
- 16 The Lord's right hand is lifted high;
the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"
- 17 **I will not die but live,**
and will proclaim what the Lord has done.
- 18 The Lord has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
- 19 **Open for me the gates of the righteous;**
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord
through which the righteous may enter.
- 21 **I will give you thanks, for you answered me;**
you have become my salvation.

22 The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

23 **the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24 The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

25 **Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!**

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.[b]

27 **The Lord is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.**

**With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the horns of the altar.**

28 You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29 **Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.**

Palm Sunday Reading: The Triumphal Entry
John 12:12-19

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

Palm Procession (video)

Children's Sermon (video)

Sermon

New Testament Lesson

For Andy's Sermon: John 16:16-33

¹⁶ Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." ¹⁷ At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸ They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

¹⁹ Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹ A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. ²⁵ Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷ No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

²⁹ Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. ³⁰ Now we can see that you know all things and that you

do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

³¹ “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. ³² “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Sermon

“Lent in the Upper Room (Part 11): Whose Are We?” (video)

“Lent in the Upper Room (Part 12): Is He Praying for Me?” (video)

Responding to God’s Word

Prayer for Our Tithes and Offerings

From Psalm 118

Gracious God, we come in the name of the the Lord Jesus. You have blessed us so richly in him. We want to offer a tribute that is fitting for our King. We know that we can never out-give King Jesus, and that all we have is already his. Still, we pray that you would receive us as we come to your altar and offer these humble but generous gifts. We have no desire in giving them, except that your kingdom would prosper and spread as they are used for ministry by our beloved church. Through them, may the nations come to know that you are a king whose love endures forever. We offer these gifts and our prayer in the name of King Jesus. Amen.
Please consider taking this time to make a contribution to the ministry of our church through an online bank transfer, PayPal, or Twint. For more, [click here](#).

Offertory

My Song is Love Unknown

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Prayers of the People

We join together in prayer. We praise God; we pray for our world, for the church, for ourselves, and we pray the Lord's Prayer.

Gracious God, we exalt and magnify you, for you are King. Your Son has come right into the midst of our deepest need, and redeemed us with his victory at the cross and at the empty tomb. You reign in each of us by your Holy Spirit, by whom you convict us of our sin and convince us of the majesty of King Jesus—and of his grace and truth. Thank you for being the King we needed rather than the king we might have wanted. By your sovereign hand, make your reign known in our hearts and lives, in our church and city, in our country and world, until Jesus is known by all people to be “all in all.”

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

Almighty Father, we pray for our world. This is one of those times when everyone is clearly aware of their frailty and mortality, and also of their responsibility to love their neighbor. Use this pandemic to bring the world to a deep awareness of everyone's great need for you. At the same time, be with those who grieve the loss of loved ones. Comfort those who face great trials with this or any other disease. Protect the vulnerable—not only those infected with the Coronavirus, but those who are stuck at home with abusive family members. Pour out your Spirit on scientists who are working on treatments and vaccines. Give great wisdom to public health officials, governments, and especially healthcare professionals. Grant a quick end to this crisis—but not until you have brought forth from it all the good that you intend: hearts turned toward you, tenderness and generosity expressed in deeds of love and mercy, and kindness shown in words of grace and truth. As you always do, bend all things that happen to the good of those who love you, and to the glory of King Jesus.

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

Holy Spirit of God, abide with your Church around the world. Move powerfully among the nations, giving your people boldness to proclaim the glory and grace of the Lord Jesus—whether your Church faces persecution or comfort, prosperity or poverty. Use this pandemic we are all facing to

remind all believers of their unity in Christ Jesus, and cause your people to emerge from this crisis more determined than ever to minister the truth and grace of Christ, in word and deed.

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

Gracious Lord Jesus, we ask you to be kind and gentle to your dear church, IPC. We long to be back together under one roof, worshiping you and greeting one another in your name; serving our city in teams and enjoying food in our homes together. Still, we praise and thank you for the way you've brought us together in unique ways in the past month. We trust that you intend to bless us and not to harm us. So give us grace that is sufficient for us as a congregation—sufficient to fulfill our mission in this place as an international assembly of believers. Touch each one of us, from the young to the old, from the healthy to the sick, from singles to families, and remind us of our sweet unity in your name and by your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, Son, and Spirit, you have committed yourself to us. We know that we are so treasured by our Father that we have been given to the Lord Jesus as his glad inheritance. We know you have trusted us so much that we have been given the authority to speak—with our words and actions—in Jesus' name, to a world that needs to hear of him. During this Holy Week, we commit ourselves to you once again, setting apart our hearts, souls, minds, and strength to be reserved exclusively for your glorious purposes, which are all “yes and amen” in Jesus Christ.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Now we pray together the prayer our Lord taught us, saying:

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. 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. Amen.

Going with God's Commission and Blessing

Welcome of Guests and Announcements

Sending Song

We've Come to Thank You, God

Commissioning and Benediction

Dear friends in Christ, it may be hard to believe that you and I are as treasured as the Savior has said we are. It may be difficult to believe that someone like you, or like me, is trustworthy enough to be given the most crucial commission ever given to anyone: the task of representing King Jesus in deeds and words, among the nations. However, Jesus has set himself apart to save and sanctify you. Now, you must set yourself apart for your Savior and Sanctifier, who will never fail you. Ever.

As you enter into the service of King Jesus this Holy Week, go with his blessing upon you:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. And may the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you and abide with you, both now and forever. Amen!

Don't forget that your pastors are available to speak with you. See [Andy](#) or [Sam's](#) calendars to make an appointment.

Don't forget to join us for our Maundy Thursday communion service, and our Good Friday tenebrae service this week. See the website worship section for more.