

WORSHIPPING GOD

April 5, 2020

Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm & Passion Sunday

Welcome to Worship.....Dan Koger

Preparing for Worship

Chiming of the Hour + Lighting of Candle

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.

Prelude.....“Lamb of Glory”Nelson and McHugh
Joan John, piano

Call to Worship (Psalm 118).....Allison and Alleigh Milam

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,

because his faithful love lasts forever.

In tight circumstances, I cried out to the Lord.

The Lord answered me with wide-open spaces.

The Lord is for me—I won’t be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?

I was pushed so hard I nearly died, but the Lord helped me.

The Lord was my strength and protection; he was my saving help!

I won’t die—no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done.

Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the Lord’s gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help.

Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the Lord’s gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

Blessed is the one who enters in the Lord’s name.

The Lord is God! He has shined a light on us!

You are my God—I will give thanks to you! You are my God—I will lift you up high!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.

Opening Prayer.....Dan Koger

Lord Jesus, today we begin to walk through the holiest week of the year. It is holy for us, because it was holy for you. Even with all of your pain and suffering, humiliation and being let down by your closest friends. It is impossible for us to even begin to understand all you experienced in these coming days. What you endured because of how much you loved us. Even with the gospel stories, there is a lot we do not know. But there is something of which we are sure. That throughout your life you trusted God. Each step of the way. When the path was straight and narrow. When the path was full of twists and turns. You never lost your way because of your trust. We believe that as you lived through the events of this week, your trust in God grew deeper and stronger. As we walk with you through this week, help us to not walk too far behind you. Help us to learn to trust you in deeper and stronger ways. Amen.

Musical Reflection – “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (by Casting Crowns)

Gospel Lesson (Matthew 21).....Lynne Robinson

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away. Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.” The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked. The crowds answered, “It’s the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.” This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Extinguishing the Candles at the Cross (reading “Amazed” by Ann Weems).....Dan Koger
(Each Sunday in Lent, after a reflective reading, we will extinguish a candle at the cross.)

The people who heard Jesus were repeatedly amazed. Are we today so sophisticated that we are immune to amazement? Can we know that he was crucified, Goodness and Compassion and Love nailed upon the tree, and go about our business of preparing Easter dinner? Can we know that he rose from the dead and walked the earth and ate and spoke with his followers and sit amazed in the pew as though we cannot hear the Word of God? O God of Jesus the Christ, the amazing thing is our lack of amazement in the face of your amazing amen.

Pastoral Prayer.....Kim Miller

New Testament Lesson (Philippians 2).....Stephanie Horton

Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus: Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings. When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Communion (note the guide for Communion at home).....Ariel, Jacob, and Jeremy Koger

Gospel Lesson (Matthew 26).....Alan Flick

Those who arrested Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest. The legal experts and the elders had gathered there. Peter followed him from a distance until he came to the high priest’s courtyard. He entered that area and sat outside with the officers to see how it would turn out.

Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant woman came and said to him, “You were also with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it in front of all of them, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.” When he went over to the gate, another woman saw him and said to those who were there, “This man was with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.” With a solemn pledge, he denied it again, saying, “I don’t know the man.”

A short time later those standing there came and said to Peter, “You must be one of them. The way you talk gives you away.” Then he cursed and swore, “I don’t know the man!” At that very moment the rooster crowed. Peter remembered Jesus’ words, “Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.” And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably. This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Meditation.....Dan Koger

Musical Reflection – “Praise You in the Storm” (by Casting Crowns)

Benediction.....Dan Koger

Postlude..... “At the Name of Jesus”arr. by Cindy Berry