

Sunday, April 5, 2020
PALM SUNDAY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good.

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: With hosannas and praise, we greet the One who calls us.

Many: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High!

One: This is the day that God has made.

Many: Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

One: Hosanna!

Many: Hosanna!

All: Hosanna in the highest!

A WORD ABOUT ONLINE COMMUNION

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

One: Lent—an invitation to reflect, to reconsider, to slow down, to discover. Invited by Jesus to join him on the journey. Invited to humble ourselves.

Many: Sometimes on that dusty road, I feel lonely, and am fearful. What lies ahead? Will I be able to withstand the challenges? Will I be enough? Will I respond with joy to the blessings to be realized?

One: We are called forth out of the winter of ourselves to re-imagine our relationship with God. On Ash Wednesday we were marked—tagged as Christ's own; humbled now, and readied to be exalted as we draw closer to that place called Jerusalem.

Many: As the birds awaken in spring, the bulbs and the buds break forth and the animals stir, so too we are roused. We enter the city triumphantly, having discovered that we are whole, loved, perfect, now and always.

"Journeying to Jerusalem" by Gay Williams, from "Before the Amen," 2007 © Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi, eds. Used by permission.

COMING TO THE TABLE

One: This morning we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We also celebrate the holy act of communion. With each act of communion ... We know that life is a mixture of blessings and setbacks, but we ask you to walk with us as you walked with Jesus, through the valley of the shadow of death, and may we fear no evil, because you are with us.

One: Be with us as we remember that at the Passover meal Jesus shared with his friends, he took the bread, broke it, gave thanks to you and said,

Many: "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in memory of me."

One: Then, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you and gave it to all of them, saying,

Many: “This is the cup of my blood, the cup of God’s new covenant, a promise to save everyone from their blindness, from wandering in darkness. As often as you do this, do it in memory of me.”

One: God of deliverance and renewal, pour out your spirit upon these communion elements, be they bread and wine, or any other food and beverage that nourishes body and soul. Bless them with the power of your Son Jesus, who chose death so that we may all know life with you. It is in his name we pray as he taught us to pray, saying:

ALL: 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. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

One: The body of Christ, broken for you.

Many: Amen.

One: The cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

Many: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Eternal God, you sent your son, Jesus, to teach us how to love one another. Willingly giving up any claim to power or place, Jesus poured out his life for the sake of the world, showing us how to love one another by the power of his love. As we stand with those who sang hosanna at his coming into Jerusalem, as we gaze with those who looked from a distance at his death on the cross, let us be willing to pour out ourselves for others, in your name. Please open our ears to the sound of your voice whispering, “Trust in me, always.” Amen!