

Worship Notes for April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

Orrville Trinity UMC

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Since we're unable to gather in-person again this weekend, here are some resources to make it easier for you to worship at home with your family or a small group of people. Please be sure to take all the special distancing precautions!

Below are some elements of worship that we were planning to include in Sunday's worship. You're invited to take time to share in the prayers, readings, and Scripture passage from Luke. Finally, you'll see a few questions that are intended for us to consider taking action.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor David

Opening Prayer

Friends in Christ:

For the five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's suffering and death. Today, together with the whole church, we begin this holy week by welcoming our Messiah. So, like the people of long ago, let us welcome Jesus and follow him to the cross.

Let us pray:

Lord, as we remember how Christ the King entered Jerusalem to the sound of joyful shouts, increase our faith and listen to our prayers, so that we may praise you every day, by living always in him. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

L: Jesus you took bread and broke it; you shared it with your friends,

C: As you were broken to feed us with the bread of life.

L: Jesus you took wine and poured it out, grapes crushed and drained of life,

C: As you were crushed and drained of your life blood.

L: Jesus, you prayed fervently in agony of spirit, that God's cup of suffering might pass away.

C: Your sweat fell like drops of blood yet you endured the pain.

L: You hung upon a tree and were crucified for us, but looked in compassion on your murderers.

C: Look, too, in compassion on we who caused your suffering and your death.

L: Jesus, you died for us and fell as a seed into the ground, knowing that your death would produce a plentiful harvest of new life.

C: May we, too, be willing to die to ourselves that others may find true and eternal life.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Luke 23:32-43 (Common English Bible, CEB)

³² They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. ³³ When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

³⁵ The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one."

³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself." ³⁸ Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die? ⁴¹ We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."

Pastor David's Sermon will be livestreamed at 10:00 a.m. and posted on our website later

[CLICK HERE](#) if you'd like to view Adam Hamilton's teaching video to go with this week's theme.

You'll want to watch Session 6 – "The Five Practices from the Cross"

Notes and Questions for Reflection and Prayer (adapted from "The Walk" Leader Guide)

- Today's theme is drawn from the last words Jesus spoke on the cross. Adam Hamilton tells us that "in order to breathe or speak, the [crucifixion] victims needed to pull themselves up by the nails." In the process, they pierced their wrists, resulting in excruciating pain. Knowing all of that, what does that say about the importance of what Jesus said?
- Read these passages: Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:33-37; Luke 23:32-46; John 19:25-30
- What was this experience of hearing the last words of Jesus from the cross like for you?
- How do Jesus' words on the cross reflect his lifelong commitment to the five spiritual practices that we've been considering during the Lenten season?

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

- Read Psalm 22:1. What do we learn about Jesus from the fact that he prayed this psalm as he experienced suffering on the cross?
- When have you expressed feelings of abandonment to God in prayer?

STUDY/SCRIPTURE

- What passages of Scripture do you recite when you're in a time of crisis?
- How do these passages offer you help and hope during difficult and challenging times?
- How has the practice of Bible study strengthened your walk with God?

SERVING OTHERS

- In what ways do you honor and care for your parents? Perhaps that's happening now as you self-distance to protect the health of at-risk parents.
- Are there people around you that Jesus is calling you to care for as if they were your own mother and father?

GIVING/GENEROSITY

- When have you been the recipient of someone else's sacrificial love?
- When have you made sacrifices for another person out of love for that person?

SHARING/WITNESSING TO THE GOOD NEWS

- Why is forgiveness a powerful way to witness to our faith and draw others to God?
- How has the practice of sharing your faith strengthened your walk with God?

Action Steps: "The Walk" Worship Series – continue to practice earlier action steps

Week 1 (WORSHIP): Pray 5 times a day

- wake-up, breakfast, lunch, dinner, bedtime

Week 2 (STUDY): Read 5 chapters of the Gospel of Luke each week (done before Easter)

- Chapters 16-20: Week of March 29
- **Chapters 21-24: Week of April 5**

Week 3 (SERVE): Practice 5 acts of kindness per week

- Make your first prayer of the day: "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"

Week 4 (GIVE): Practice 5 acts of generosity over the next month (up to Easter)

Week 5 (SHARE) Practice sharing your faith with 5 people over the course of the year.

- Invite 5 people to participate in church events (worship, study group, outreach, etc.) with you this year, and take steps toward the first of these invitations now.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, God, for living me more than I will ever comprehend. Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me when I have been lost. I accept your love, your forgiveness, and your grace. Help me as I seek to walk with you, my crucified king. In your holy name. Amen.