



Lutheran Church *of the*
REFORMATION

*Hosanna!
Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord.*

John 12:13, NRSV

*Palm Sunday
Our Common Prayer at Home
April 5, 2020*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Dear members of God's family, we continue to be united by the Holy Spirit during this time when we can not be physically present in the sanctuary. Here is a resource to help us share common prayer as we worship at home. We continue Reformation's Lent theme taken from an ancient prayer of confession: ***Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.***

Today, we focus on Mary's anointing of Jesus and Jesus's procession into Jerusalem the week before he was crucified. In this gospel, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is anointed, glorified king and humiliated, crucified servant. We too are full of paradox: like Mary, we adore Jesus for the abundant life he gives and grieve his suffering.

Usually, we begin the Palm Sunday service with the procession of palm branches, but this year we will end today's worship with the blessing of branches and go out singing the old hymn *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*. We wave branches in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross †, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us
alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of † Jesus
Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the
Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

2 Corinthians 13:13

The presiding minister and congregation welcome each other with a greeting shared by Jesus' early apostles and then join their hearts in prayer. The prayer of the day is often an ancient prayer that introduces the themes in the biblical readings for today's worship.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Even though we are distant from one another, the Spirit unites us as we pray this ancient prayer that introduces the biblical readings for today.

Let us pray.

After brief silence for personal prayer, the presider continues:

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



WORD

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

Today's Children's Message is before the Blessing of Branches toward the end of worship.

First Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁴ If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.**
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**
- 3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.**
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**
- 5 May those who sow in tears
harvest with shouts of joy.**
- 6 May those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**



Gospel

John 12:1-11

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life. This version is adapted from the Contemporary English Version.

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Michael Wilker

As you are able, proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn

Christus Paradox

Unison Dm B^bmaj7 F Am Dm D7

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd. You, Lord, are both
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain, stripped of might up -
3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

Gm C F B^b Am B^bmaj7 Dm

prince and slave. You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory.

Cm7 B^b A D Gm

of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing
have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
Wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing

Dm Csus C Dm Gm C Dm

in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
in - stant; you, who are both gift and cost.
in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

Creed

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith in God by saying the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we may sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, we give thanks for the beauty of the Earth, for all your creation, for our human bodies and for all life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restoring God, by the wounds of your Son Jesus we are healed. We pray today for all those afflicted in body, mind, or spirit by the coronavirus pandemic. Lift up Mel and Lisa Antonen and their family and all the multitudes who suffer here and around the world. Lift up all those who are alone or out of work or resources. Give us vision to see your guiding light in alleviating the pain of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustainer God, we give thanks and we pray today for all those who continue to do the essential work of providing needed services and supplies as people are hospitalized or staying at home during this time. We lift up especially those medical and other workers ministering to all who are ill, suffering, or dying. Give new strength and heart to the weary. Sustain all the caregivers. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the Earth, protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, endangered species and the most vulnerable among us. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation and humanity to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who empower the many to work for the good of all. Liberate the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort, send your saving help to all who suffer. Unbind those subject to abuse, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying and their families. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, we give thanks for this great community of faith. We pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Aloud and in silence we lift up the prayers on our hearts.

A brief silence for other prayers and intercessions.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace with others in your household. You may also take this time to text "Peace be with you" to another person -- maybe a friend you miss seeing in person at worship or even a neighbor in another city or state.

Mission Announcements - bit.ly/WW4-5

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for the saving Word of Christ and all the gifts of God.

Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering

Although we are not gathering in the sanctuary, Reformation's ministries continue every day. Staff members are providing individual and communal pastoral care, coordinating lay leaders and volunteers, caring for our facilities, connecting us with one another, and developing resources for worship and spiritual growth. This time has disrupted the usual way we gather offerings and severely restricted the gifts of some households. We invite you to give as you are able.

Please give online at ReformationDC.org/give or send your checks to the church office. If you want to begin or change your Simply Giving weekly or monthly donation, email Office@ReformationDC.org.

*To use our new **Text-to-Give** option, send a text message to 844-414-8057 with the amount you would like to give to Reformation. You will receive a secure link to input your payment information. Once you have filled out your payment information, the contribution will be deposited directly into Reformation's bank account. After completing this setup, you can use text-to-give to donate again by simply texting additional donations to 844-414-8057*

Ride On King Jesus

Solo by Madelyn Salazar

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending Prayer

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

Children's Message

Children are invited to hear about today's bible stories with one of the ministers. Jesus embraced children and placed them in the center of the Christian community as models for discipleship.

Acclamation

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

Processional Gospel

John 12:12-18

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,
"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!"

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

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

¹⁷ So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸ It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹ The Pharisees then said to one another, "See! You've accomplished nothing! Look! The whole world is following him!"

Blessing of Branches

Prayer from Lutheran World Relief

Let us pray. God of Promise,
We lift our branches in praise to celebrate your coming. We lift our branches knowing what the coming week will bring. We lift our hearts sensing how easily we'll turn away. We wave our branches and see the shadow of your cross and death. Remind us in our praise that death is not the ending. Console us in our knowing that despair is not the final word. Uplift our faith in your resurrection, and remind us of the promise of life in the face of death, and hope in the face of desolation. All this you accomplish as we wave our branches in praise and thanksgiving, for the promise of the One who was, who is, and who is to come,
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Blessing

Romans 15:5

The God of steadfast love and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The God of all grace ☩ bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Postlude



Prayer List

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Charles Cieslak, Jack-Henry Ernst, Lisa Lingafelt, David Ochmanek, Dale Thorenson (4/10).

WE PRAY FOR...

Members and friends affected by COVID-19.

The family of Pastor Ben, whose grandmother passed away this month.

Mike Cochrane, brother of Karen Carlson, as he was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Erica Hoff, daughter of Betty Walker, as she continues treatment.

The family and friends of Susan Blackman, especially her husband Paul, as they grieve her death.

Staunton family, as they mourn the death of Stephen (Kieran) Staunton, Caitlin Jacobs father-in-law.

Rebecca Pfahl, for health and healing.

Wayne Krumwiede, for health and healing.

Family of Betty Harper, sister of Roger Moffatt, who passed away in February.

Mel Antonen, Lisa Nipp, and Emma as they deal with COVID-19 infections.

For David, Gudrun, and Julie, friends of Phillip Vender.

For the light of faith in the hearts of those living with and battling cancer.

For parents and elders who are navigating new homes and communities.

Robert Pfahl and his family as he continues treatment for pancreatic cancer.

Kate Hawkins, a friend of Brianna Widner's family, who is battling cancer.

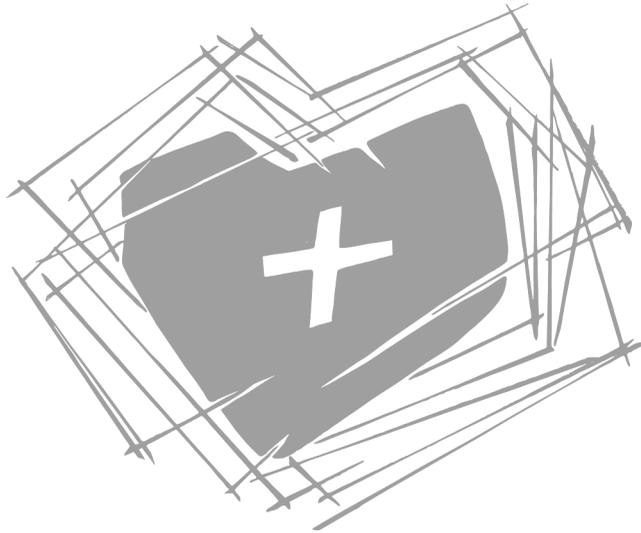
For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service

Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Paul Cowden, Luke Frerichs, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson and family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for

Phil Abbott, Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Bob Hedrick, Bernice Hoveland, Mary James, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala, Wayne Krumwiede, Margot Lyddane, Carol Ann Mumaw, Valerie Platz, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott, Madge Selinsky, Al Stauderman, Helen Vigness, and Carolyn Walker.

Please email your prayer requests to Pastor Mike at wilker@ReformationDC.org



The most up-to-date Worship Schedule, including Holy Week & Easter, will be found on our website, www.reformationdc.org.

We will continue to follow the guidelines of health professionals, scientists, government officials, and church leaders to make decisions regarding gathering for in-person worship. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

From Ashes to Easter Meditations are complete and available in the entryway throughout Lent. Written by our members and friends, edited by Gloria Kenyon, Liz Tuckermanty, and Kathy Tobias and compiled by Pastor Ben Hogue, this booklet has been a treasure for many years at Reformation. Please take a copy home with you!

Find a digital copy at

www.reformationdc.org/lent

Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders...

Presiding Minister	Pastor Ben Hogue
Preaching Minister	Pastor Michael Wilker
Assisting Minister	Kathy Tobias
Readers	Roger Dahlin, Shay McNeil & Jeff Poulin, Susanne Horn and Monica Fitzgerald, Danny & Benji
Soloist	Madelyn Salazar
Cantors	Jon-Michael Eclar, Gabbi Levy, Madelyn Salazar



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A Reconciling in Christ congregation

Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Nursery, 8:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Lead Pastor	Pastor Michael Wilker wilker@ReformationDC.org	President: Matt Fuehrmeyer
Associate Pastor	Pastor Ben Hogue hogue@ReformationDC.org	Vice President: Bonnie Franklin
Administrator	Tegan Peterson peterson@ReformationDC.org	Secretary: Karen Carlson
Director of Music & Arts	Paul Leavitt pdleavitt0918@gmail.com	Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hazard
		Treasurer: Roger Moffatt

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