

# An Order of Worship for the Home

Prepared for April 5, 2020, Palm Sunday

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*This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak to one another and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can schedule a time to worship with you by phone.*

*There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org) to give online.*

## Welcome and Invocation

Reader 1: The crowds shout, "Hosanna!"

Reader 2: The palm branches wave.

Reader 1: We come to worship.

Reader 2: We come to bring praise.

Reader 1: O, God, be with us,

Reader 2: Father, Son, and Spirit.

Together: Amen.

## Psalm 118:26-29

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

<sup>27</sup> The Lord is God,

and he has made his light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,

up to the horns of the altar!

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God; I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

for his steadfast love endures forever!

## Confession & Absolution

*Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in the fellowship. Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered.*

Christian Confessing: Each and every day, sin is present with me. My mind is bent toward worry, fear, doubt, pride. I value self-preservation over service to others, and personal comfort over response to God's calling. I've done wrong. I've failed to do good when I had opportunity. I need God's grace and forgiveness. I need to know I'm loved. I need new life in Christ.

Christian Responding: Your God loves you. He sent Jesus to live and die and rise again, so that you could have the new life you've asked for. He knows you're unable to pay for these things, so he's given his gifts freely. I am glad to humbly share these gifts with you: You are forgiven, by God's grace! You are loved as his child! You have new life in Christ!

Both: Amen

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

### Gospel Reading

Mark 11:1-10

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup> And they went away and found a colt tied at a

door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup> And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup> And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

### Message from Pastor Matt “The Box is Not the Point”

If your home is like mine, there are a lot of deliveries. There were deliveries prior to the Bay Area’s shelter in place order, but now they’re even more common.



We have boxes. There are small boxes and large boxes. There are many brown boxes, and occasionally a white box. There are boxes with internal flaps, and boxes with packing paper, or bubble wrap, and even some that came with packing peanuts. (My wife and I dislike the ones with packing peanuts.)

But the boxes and the packing materials aren’t the important stuff. We’re not excited about the box, or the kind of tape used to seal it up. We’re thankful for the new electronics, and clothes, and food, and books, and games, and all the stuff that arrives inside a box.

The box is no big deal. What’s inside the box is a big deal. We’re grateful for the box...but we get excited about what the box brings.

If St. Paul were writing today, he would have pointed out that you and I are like those boxes. Instead, he wrote this:

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)*

In Paul’s time a clay jar served a similar purpose to a box in my house. It’s a container. It’s common and ordinary. The container is nothing special. Some are larger and some are smaller. Its purpose is to hold something, to carry something, to deliver something.

But Paul says there is a treasure inside these boxes (or jars of clay). Can you imagine a delivery of gold bars arriving in a plain brown box with some Prime Delivery packing tape holding it shut? That would be unreal! Yet, that's the picture Paul is painting. *You* are that kind of delivery!

By faith, you have Jesus living in you! In your baptism, God placed his Holy Spirit in your life! You carry a treasure inside of you. And the result is like a common delivery box that brings precious jewels and gleaming pearls to a home. It's unexpected. It's extraordinary. It's a gift!

The image Paul uses both defines you, and it sends you. You're no ordinary box. You're a treasure box. You are important because the God of the universe has made a home with you. His presence defines you.

Plus, you have a calling. You really are a delivery container. You're the way in which God makes himself present in this world. You're the box which brings his delivery of grace, forgiveness, salvation and friendship. You're not a box destined for storage in the attic. You're intended to make a delivery of the treasure you hold. This is your calling.

Now, with this in mind I want to invite you to think about Easter. We're sheltering in place in the Bay Area. Other states have "Better at Home" guidance and other social distancing orders, mandates or recommendations. But Easter is still coming.

As the people of God, we will celebrate all that God has done for us in Christ. To whom will you deliver Easter joy? Who will you invite to enjoy the treasure you carry? Is there a person? A group? A family? A neighborhood? A city? Who is your delivery intended for? If you're not sure, spend some time in prayer over that. Then, pray with a friend and ask them to imagine the ways you can make the delivery happen.

As we wrap this up, let me point out the connection to Palm Sunday. There is one, and I want you to see it. I want you to know your place in the Palm Sunday story. I want you to realize that you get to enjoy the celebration that results in being with Jesus. I want you to know that there's a party, and shouting, and joy which you get to receive. But please don't mistake the accolades as your own. You're the donkey in the Palm Sunday story; you are not the treasure. But you get to walk on the palms, and you have your way marked by singing and celebration because Jesus has brought you into his work. You carry Jesus.

After all, that's what we do. We carry treasures in these ordinary boxes, so that the treasure can be delivered and shared.

*For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Corinthians 4:5-7)*

### Offering Prayer

*If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.*

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings.

Together: Receive us as your own.

### Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

*Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray together the Lord's Prayer.*

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 and ever. Amen

### Blessing

*(2 Corinthians 12:14)*

Reader 1: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Reader 2: ...and the love of God

Reader 1: ...and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

Reader 2: ...and with you

Together: Amen

*As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version will be available at [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org). We can also add others to our mailing list if that is preferred.*

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